FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 015 *23 January 1981*

BRAZIL

O ESTADO Foresees Pragmatic Reagan Foreign Policy D 1
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 21 Jan]
JORNAL Sees Reagan Speech as Appropriate for World D 2
[JORNAL DO BRASIL 21 Jan]
O GLOBO Comments on Reagan Inaugural Address D 3
[21 Jan]
Monetary Council Deregulates Interest Rates D 4
Diplomatic Relations With Rwanda Established D 4

ECUADOR

Government Protests Attack by Peruvian Aircraft G 1
FDR's Ungo Meets President, Members of Legislature G 1
Criticizes Salvadoran Reforms G 1
Praises Ecuadorean Support G 1

PERU

Radio Commentator Assesses Reagan Administration J 1
Official Says Nuclear Plant Possible by 1995 J 1
Briefs: Export Figures; Petroleum to Japan J 1

VENEZUELA

Minister Denies Plans for More Delimitation Talks L 1
Cuban Case To Be Decided 'Without Pressures' L 1

CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

Government Junta 20 January News Conference P 1
Part One P 1
Part Two P 8
Army Says FMLN Regrouping for New Offensive P 14
Further Details P 15
Power Blackout P 16
Military Spokesman on Attacks P 17
Paper Says Six Cuban Leftists Killed in Clashes P 17
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 22 Jan]
Army Investigating Attempted Guerrilla Landing P 17
Public Sectors Reiterate Support for Army P 18
[EL DIARIO DE HOY 22 Jan]
FDR Denounces U.S. Effort To Invoke Rio Pact P 18
FDR Reports Arrival of U.S. Military Aid, Advisers P 18
FMLN's Cayetano Carpio on Offensive, Strike P 18
[EL NUEVO DIARIO 20 Jan]
Anti-Sandinists Report Site of Radio Liberation P 21
Agriculture Minister Cites Goals for 1981 P 21
Planning Minister Optimistic on Economy for 1981 P 22

GUATEMALA

U.S. Doctor Cummings Released, Leaves for Home P 22

HONDURAS

Visiting Salvadoran Minister Comments on Offensive P 23
Arrival of U.S. Military Advisers Denounced P 24
Newspaper: Subversives Are Refused Nicaraguan Aid P 24
Officer Explains Action Over Recruiting Youths P 25

NICARAGUA

Deputy Minister 'Urgently' Leaves for U S. P 25
Priests To Discuss Governmental Role With Bishops P 26
Managuan Archbishop Views Church-State Relations P 26
Figures Cited for Literacy Campaign on Coast P 27
International Solidarity Meeting To Be Held 26 Jan P 27

CUBA

Raul Castro on Creation of Territorial Militias Q 1
Intervention in El Salvador Denied by Ambassador Q 5
Mora Herman Comments on Release of U S Hostages Q 5
Fidel Castro Visits Sierra Maestra Areas Q 6
Torralba Asks Cane Workers To Make Greater Efforts Q 6
Malmierca, Grenadian Envoy Hail Travel Agreement Q 6
Raul Castro Chairs Founding of Cooperative Q 7
Briefs: Guyanese Party Delegation; French Communist Q 7

CARIBBEAN

BAHAMAS

Pindling Addresses Nation on Teachers' Strike S 1
Strikebreaker Hiring Denied S 1

O ESTADO FORESEES PRAGMATIC REAGAN FOREIGN POLICY

PY221532 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Jan 81 p 3

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "Return to Realism"]

[Text] The impression one gets from a first reading of Ronald Reagan's inaugural speech is that a new phase in the history of the United States could now be beginning a path toward self-understanding and an understanding of the nation's destiny, overcoming the traumas of the past and the consequences of the transition period marked by the lack of decision which prevailed during James Earl Carter's administration.

In our commentary yesterday we said that "aware of the risks involved in a direct confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union--which poses the nuclear apocalypse as the ultimate threat--Carter was unable to find the means to make the will of the White House prevail over that of the Kremlin." It is possible that Reagan will be able to provide a solution for the problem because he seems to be prepared to represent U.S. values and to pay heed to the nation's desire to survive.

The former California governor won the election by an overwhelming majority because most voters were convinced of the need to implement his plan of action--namely the recovery of U.S. economic and military strength and of its worldwide leadership--and also because they had either guessed or were convinced that the implementation of realpolitik within a framework combining the ideal of respect for human rights and the use of force is the international behavior compatible with the time in which we are living. Ronald Reagan tried to demonstrate his decision to fulfill the promises he made during his electoral campaign by echoing the commitment Winston Chruchill undertook several decades ago when he said that he had not taken the oath as prime minister to his majesty to preside over the dissolution of the British empire.

Everything leads us to believe that Reagan is aware that the means used to execute a policy is as important as the principles of the policy. This and no other seems to be his reason for appointing General Haig (who started his career on MacArthur's staff and improved his military knowledge at NATO) as secretary of state. In fact, Haig has learned his lessons well. He knows, that the best strategy demands that the chief look for alternatives capable of leading to victory, not suicide. From this point of view Reagan's following words are significant: "As for the enemies of freedom, those who are potential adversaries, they will be reminded that peace is the highest aspiration of the American people. We will negotiate for it, sacrifice for it; we will not surrender for it, now or ever." He added: "Our forebearance should never be misunderstood. Our reluctance for conflicts should not be misjudged as a failure of will. When action is required to preserve our national security, we will act." The U.S. rearmament which will take place under him cannot be mistaken for warmongering, because it is the correct way to avoid war. This was Reagan's definition of this policy and his decision: "We will maintain sufficient strength to prevail if need be, knowing that if we do so, we have the best chance of never having to use that strength."

On another occasion we will analyze the various aspects of Reagan's foreign policy and his reference to the need for domestic changes in the United States. Today we will deal with the general idea of the East-West confrontation. We are equally interested in his references to Latin America. The governments of the hemisphere must understand that after Carter, Reagan means real changes in U.S. Latin America policy. His message is clear. He will bring back the tradition of putting national interests in a privileged position.

As long as U.S. sovereignty is not endangered, Latin Americans will not have to make sacrifices..."I assure them our support and firm commitment...We will match loyalty with loyalty. We will strive for mutually beneficial relations. We will not use our friendship to impose on their sovereignty, for our own sovereignty is not for sale."

The important thing for Brazil, which is now firmly part of the "Third World," is that Reagan is not establishing his priorities on the basis of the power which the countries of the hemisphere believe themselves to be vested with, or on the basis of the formal support which Latin Americans give to U.S. values, but rather on the basis of loyalty which, things being what they are, can only be mutual. What the planners and executors of Brazil's foreign policy must bear in mind is that ostracism imposed by Carter's moralism is over and that Brazil will be assigned a role in U.S. plans and actions not on the basis of its geopolitical status, or the countenance of its regime and its behavior regarding aspects pertaining to its sovereign domestic policy, but on the basis of the significance which its cooperation with Washington will have for the mutual relations between two countries of equal sovereign rights.

Everything seems to indicate that with Reagan a new type of straightforward, more open and loyal cooperation with countries--one of which is stronger--that want to be friends will begin in Latin America. This old rule of international politics, valid not only for Latin America, but also for Europe, is being reinstated.

JORNAL SEES REAGAN SPEECH AS APPROPRIATE FOR WORLD

PY220300 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 21 Jan 81 p 10

[Editorial: "Universal Proposal"]

[Text] Ronald Reagan's inauguration speech is a vigorous recital of liberal principles. For the American people it is a call for confidence and optimism: "To paraphrase Winston Churchill: I did not take the oath I have just taken with the intention of presiding over the dissolution of the world's strongest economy."

The situation of the United States as depicted in the speech is not just a local one: "These United States are confronted with an economic affliction of great proportions. We suffer from the longest and one of the worst sustained inflations in our national history. It distorts our economic decisions." "Great as our tax burden is, it has not kept up with public spending. For decades we have piled deficit upon deficit, mortgaging our future."

Although he has announced it before, Reagan's prescription is now given in a definite form: "It is time to check and reverse the growth of government which shows signs of having grown beyond the consent of the governed." "In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem."

Thus the United States resumes its role as a teacher, a role it has played for 200 years since it invented the presidential system. Through this modern version of the democratic experience, a power which is the direct expression of the popular will was created.

The uniqueness of this formula--as the new U.S. President underscored--is that it has stood the test of time intact: The constitution has not been assailed, but was rather enriched by amendments to enhance its virtues. Governments succeeded one another in regular 4-year cycles. That is the touchstone of loyalty and perseverance with no parallel in modern history that makes it possible for the United States to periodically return to original values whenever Americans feel that they are veering away from those values.

The inauguration speech says: "The federal government did not create the states, the states created the federal government."

"We are a nation that has a government, not the other way around."

How many times in recent decades was that statement more than just a rhetorical principle, truly reflecting reality?

The federative ideal of the United States was slightly twisted following the 1929 crisis when some degree of state interventionism and more administrative centralization crept up into the affairs of the nation.

That slight distortion of the federative ideal, however, never escaped the control of the prevailing political system which maintained its capacity to reassert that ideal. The Reagan platform which proclaims its accountability to the nation rather than to the state is the best proof of that capacity.

Therefore, a liberal [as published] set of ideals is proposed as the only possible remedy to the notion that spread like an epidemic: the notion of the paternal state, the state as a boss, which ended up by taking the national treasury as the basis for its relations with society.

The twentieth century slipped--and still does many times--down that slope. It seems that the multitude of problems to be faced causes dismay to the individual who feels that he had better throw himself into the arms of the savior state.

Fascisms of the right and the left have thrived in that climate by transferring all prerogatives to the state.

That possibility is still attractive for the contemporary mentality. The virtues of a free society are persistently and intentionally minimized. The virtues of a society effectively bound by a social contract.

By attacking that mistaken notion, the new Republican administration makes a proposal that is of interest not only to the United States.

O GLOBO COMMENTS ON REAGAN INAUGURAL ADDRESS

PY221405 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Jan 81 p 1

[Editorial: "A New American Reality"]

[Text] In his inaugural speech, Ronald Reagan was able to mesh the extolling of the United States as the bastion of democracy and the defender of freedom throughout the world with the energetic positions that he defended during the election campaign and with the political and ethical values that have been the essence of American governments since their first days.

For all of those who criticized or feared his conservative ideas, which are considered radical or belicose in various aspects, Republican Reagan offered answers that leave no doubt about his commitments to the nation's liberal tradition and to the interest in maintaining peace.

Government for, by and of the people, based on conscientious reasoning and human dignity, which is the patrimony of the United States and Christian civilization, is what the current occupant of the White House wants to see above all guaranteed in his promised "era of renovation."

Meanwhile, the greatness and the power of the American nation, if they are to be of value against the enemies of freedom and even exist as such, cannot be placed at the mercy of the deformations and dangers that are being created internally. It is not just an economic crisis of large proportions in the form of inflation, loss of industrial productivity, unemployment, etc. That is going to checkmate the United States' national destiny and responsibilities of world leadership.

It is also the magnitude of the federal government's influence and interference, the ever-expanding expenditure and public deficits; the excessive interference of the state in the life of society and the citizen and the harsh taxation which punishes profit and inhibits full production; it is a giant bureaucracy full of regulations that only constrict the development of the spontaneous energy of the people.

It was about time that we heard from a U.S. president that, within the economic crisis of these days, there is a problem and that the government does not have the solution, that the efficiency of governments is not measured by their expansion or disciplinary leanings.

Reagan arrives in the White House with the decision to reverse the terms of an equation that is mortgaging the future in the name of the present. He wants to act today, realistically, in order to guarantee the future of Americans and he wants a united society, without distinctions, to participate in the effort of economic recovery through equitable efforts and sacrifices.

Regarding foreign affairs, Ronald Reagan, without arrogance or provocation, defends a position of preventive strength within the framework of a power balance that will exclude, at any price, the hypothesis of American military inferiority. He reminded the potential adversaries of the United States that even though at this time peace is the highest aspiration of the Americans, the United States will never, either now or ever, surrender in the name of peace. The will to negotiate, the capability of assuming sacrifices, the attitude of patience and a preference for shying away from conflicts must not be confused with fear or weakness. "When action is required to preserve our national security, we will act."

MONETARY COUNCIL DEREGULATES INTEREST RATES

PY220052 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Excerpt] The National Monetary Council [CMN] today lifted the government's control of the interest rates charged by both commercial and investment banks, including government-owned institutions. Only the interest rates of the following types of loans will remain under government control: credit for rural sectors, that earmarked to promote export products, and that for small and medium-sized enterprises. The deregulation of the interest rates is designed to eliminate distortions which have been observed in the financial system, such as higher average amortizations [saldo medio elevado] and the collection of interests in advance. The CMN also authorized the reformulation of the program designed to finance export products and approved the creation of a program to promote agroindustrial development. From now on, interest for loans for production of manufactured export products will be collected 6 months after the loan has been contracted, at an annual rate of 40 percent. Also increased were the amounts of loans for the leading manufactured export products, which will now range between 12.20, 30, and 40 percent of the value of the total production to be exported. In the agricultural sector, it has been decided that between April and September banks will have to increase their allocation for agricultural loans from 15 to 20 percent of their demand deposits.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH RWANDA ESTABLISHED

PY211700 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1640 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Brasilia, 21 Jan (TELAM)--The Brazilian Foreign Ministry has reported that today Brazil and Rwanda established diplomatic relations at the embassy level. Now Brazil has diplomatic relations at the embassy level with most African countries, with the exception of Botswana, Madagascar, Chad, Malawi and Somalia.

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS ATTACK BY PERUVIAN AIRCRAFT

PA230436 Paris AFP in Spanish 0349 GMT 23 Jan 81

[Text] Quito, 22 Jan (AFP)--A Peruvian helicopter strafed an Ecuadorean military port in the Condor mountain range this morning and wounded the pilot of an Ecuadorean helicopter who was on the ground, the Ecuadorean Government charged here tonight.

The Ecuadorean Government has lodged its most energetic protest aginst these acts, which violate Ecuadorean territory and constitute armed aggression.

FDR'S UNGO MEETS PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURE

Criticizes Salvadoran Reforms

PA222232 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] During a meeting with the president of the National Chamber of Representatives, the diplomatic commission of the Salvadoran Revolutionary Democratic Front, led by Guillermo Manuel Ungo, expressed thanks for the solidarity it has received from the Ecuadorean legislature during the struggle against the unpopular dictatorship of El Salvador. After the meeting, Ungo told newsmen:

[Begin recording] We think that in our country for the past 49 years words have been prostituted and they have been used for just the opposite of the purpose they should serve; elections became an instrument of fraud and repression and the people's desires were mocked. Peaceful channels have been blocked, so the Salvadoran people now have the legitimate right to carry out an insurrection.

There has also been talk of reforms but these nominal reforms have become a tool of social control and repression. That is why we see that more than 200,000 Salvadoran peasants have been displaced from their homes and have become refugees, due to a so-called agrarian reform that has only brought death, persecution and control of the peasants. That is why we believe that respect for human rights, elections and democratic freedoms only makes sense once the people have achieved their liberation. This is the struggle that is being waged right now and which is approaching its final and definitive moment. [end recording]

Praises Ecuadorean Support

PA222343 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Jan 81

[News conference held by Guillermo Manuel Ungo, leader of Salvadoran Revolutionary Democratic Front, during visit to Quito on 21 January--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ungo] We have been received by various groups. During our meeting with the foreign minister we had the opportunity to express our gratitude for the democratic position that President Roldos and the Foreign Ministry have adopted on several occasions, particularly at the meeting of presidents in Santa Marta and the recent meeting with President Jose Lopez Portillo in Mexico. We also want to express thanks to the Latin American Association of Human Rights and Ecuadorean Horacio Sevilla, executive secretary of the association. Going beyond mere formal statements, the association has carried out a concrete defense of the Latin American people's struggle for their human and political rights. This is true not only in the case of the Salvadoran people but of other countries such as Bolivia and Uruguay. In short, we are grateful and encouraged by the high level of solidarity that the Ecuadorean people and the state institutions have given us.

[Question] If the U.S. support of the internal political situation becomes more effective, would the revolutionary triumph be threatened?

[Answer] We do not think so. It would be delayed. More bloodshed would come to an already sufficiently martyred people. The threat of the internationalization of the Salvadoran conflict would become more real. Not only we but also democratic Latin American governments believe this. We think this is the spirit and the meaning of the resolution of the honorable National Chamber of Representatives of Ecuador. The internationalization of the Salvadoran conflict is being provoked by those who are supporting the antipopular and minority interests, which have created and carried out violence and anti-democracy in our country for 49 years.

[Question] For the past 2 days international news agencies have reported that junta officials have said the situation is under control What is the information you have on the progress of this first week of the guerrilla offensive?

[Answer] I don't know if during the Nazi era in Germany there was control over the situation such as that which the Salvadoran military-Christian Democratic Government exerts. There is not a single radio station which is not hooked up to the radio network. We say the stations are chained to the network. They are chained for 22 out of 24 hours. The Salvadoran people are not permitted to know what is really occurring in the country. There is no form of political expression. For the first time in Salvadoran history, we have experienced 9 months of constant suspension of all individual rights. We also have martial law that Duarte announced would only last for 3 days but which is already 10 days old. There is a curfew from 1900 to 0500 during which our people live in fear and terror. If this is democratic control, I wouldn't wish it on any country of the world.

[Question] What expressions of solidarity have you received in Ecuador?

[Answer] We have received many expressions of solidarity Yesterday we attended a mass solidarity event. Several thousand residents of Quito gathered at the square of [name-indistinct]. We have spoken with political leaders of various sectors. This demonstrates the pluralism represented by the Revolutionary Democratic Front, which includes all the Salvadoran democratic and revolutionary political forces. Today's luncheon was attended by the leaders of all of Ecuador's political parties with one exception, which I would rather not mention but which one can easily imagine. We have also met with the Ecuadorean foreign minister and the president of the National Chamber of Representatives and right now with the members of the Chamber of Representatives here. We have also met with the directors and the executive secretary of the Latin American Association of Human Rights. In addition we have had an opportunity to meet with the newsmen who are very important at this time when, through the manipulation and distortion of news, there is a useless attempt to hide what is becoming increasingly clear: the genocidal and repressive character of a government that does not have any social or political bases for support and which sees the Salvadoran people as enemies who must be fought. It sees everyone, from the assassinated archbishop of San Salvador, to priests, the university rector, professors, teachers, nurses, doctors, workers and peasants as its enemies.

RADIO COMMENTATOR ASSESSES REAGAN ADMINISTRATION

PY221354 Lima Radio America in Spanish 1130 GMI 22 Jan 81

[Exclusive commentary for Radio America by (Enrique Chirinos Soto)]

[Text] This is a new process, said Ronald Reagan yesterday, when he took office as the 40th president of the United States. What does the incoming Reagan administration (?signify) for its country, for the world and for Peru in particular? We will now try to give a short answer to that simple question.

In the United States, Reagan will have to dedicate himself to slaying the dragons of inflation. [words indistinct] of inflation and recession. The latter, in its turn, is the slackening of business which leads to a higher unemployment rate. To these complex problems, Reagan has answer which are also complex and virtually (?contradictory). Thus he proposes to reduce expenditures, but at the same time he proposes to increase the defense budget. He proposes to lower taxes, but at the same time he proposes to balance the public (?budget). In short, he proposes to put more emphasis on the creative capacity of the private sector and less emphasis on state intervention in the economy.

In the world, the Reagan administration intends to employ a more energetic diplomacy, a more effective presence, a more coherent foreign policy than that which President Carter conducted. The Soviet Union should not feel that it can invade Afghanistan, threaten Poland or intervene in Central America through Cuba with impunity. If it does, it exposes itself to provoking an American response of a proportionate nature. Reagan has said that we are ready for everything for the cause of peace--except surrender.

As far as Peru is concerned, we have nothing to fear from the Reagan administration. Peruvian democracy now enjoys much appreciation among the American public which, in the final analysis, governs the country. In any case, if Reagan succeeds in reviving the economy we will be able to sell our raw materials and our industrial products at a better price on the very large American market. That is all, thank you.

OFFICIAL SAYS NUCLEAR PLANT POSSIBLE BY 1995

PY230211 Lima Radio America in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Jan 81

[Text] Gen Juan Barreda Delgado, executive president of the Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute, has said that if the planning and development of an agreement on nuclear energy is undertaken immediately, Peru could have its first nuclear plant ready by 1995.

BRIEFS

EXPORT FIGURES--Lima, 19 Jan (AFP)--According to the central bank, Peruvian exports during 1980 amounted to the record figure of $4,704,000,000. It is believed that exports for the current year will amount to $5,047,000,000. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2353 GMT 19 Jan 81 PY]

PETROLEUM TO JAPAN--Lima, 19 Jan (AFP)--It was disclosed in this capital today that a first shipment of 600,000 tons of Peruvian petroleum for Japan will leave on Tuesday. This shipment is part of an agreement signed in 1974 by the Peruvian Petroleum Company, ODATAL and the Japanese consortium JAPECO for the construction of an oil pipeline to transport petroleum from the Amazon to the coastline. The construction of this pipeline will be paid for with crude oil or a strong foreign currency. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2355 GMT 19 Jan 81 PY]

MINISTER DENIES PLANS FOR MORE DELIMITATION TALKS

PA222356 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Euclides Perez report]

[Excerpt] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasquez said today that it is not true that He is planning to meet Colombian Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas to discuss the border delimitation problem between our two countries.

[Begin Zambrano recording] At this point, Venezuela is still considering and analyzing the positions and responses which have already been publicized and received.

There has been no agreement between our two countries regarding the proper occasion to begin a new round of talks, so the news about such a meeting is not in accordance with the real situation between our two countries. [end recording]

CUBAN CASE TO BE DECIDED 'WITHOUT PRESSURES'

PA222246 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] The case of the Cuban airplane will be decided without pressures of any kind and earlier than expected. This statement was made by Gen Eli Antonio Garcia Barrios, president of the republic's military court.

The high-ranking magistrate said that any consequences, whether political or diplomatic, of the decision of the military court will have to be faced by the other state organizations.

The magistrate said that the decision on the Cuban airplane case will be announced before the end of April.

EL SALVADOR

GOVERNMENT JUNTA 20 JANUARY NEWS CONFERENCE

Part One

PA221244 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Jan 81

["First part" of news conference by Salvadoran junta members Jose Napoleon Duarte, Jaime Abdul Gutierrez, Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich, Defense Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia, Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena and Planning Minister Atilio Vieytez W. at the presidential palace at 1600 GMT on 20 January--recorded]

[Text] [Duarte] Good morning, Salvadoran people, newsmen and national and foreign correspondents. The extreme left sectors had established today as a fundamental lankmark in what they called the final offensive. It has been an interesting coincidence that on this day the government has received the credentials of the Spanish ambassador who, representing his government, has come to live with us during the present process.

I believe that the Salvadoran people should be informed that the country is completely under government and military control and that there is not a single town or location in the country which has been in guerrilla hands at any time.

[Words indistinct] so that national and foreign newsmen can see for themselves the situation which exists throughout the country. I must therefore thank the Salvadoran people for the tremendous effort they have made to confront this difficult situation in which clashes have occurred in various parts of the country.

I believe that this demonstration of faith and confidence by the Salvadoran people has been very important, but so are the efforts which have been made by large population sectors to aid the armed forces in these confrontations which were provoked by the guerrillas and successfully handled by the armed forces.

We believe that the extreme left's potential force has weakened to the extent that it is no longer possible for it to attain its objectives. However, I want to tell the Salvadoran people and the world, that the armed forces government has not come to speak of victories or demands. It has come to ask the Salvadoran people [words indistinct] through these difficult times we have lived, and to ask all those who, through a mistaken idealist concept, have pursued the path of violence, to set aside their weapons and violent attitudes, to accept our offer for amnesty--which they have a right to--and to ask them to join the revolutionary process which currently exists in the country, because all Salvadorans are important at this time. We also want to ask them to join the country's productive drive in order to recover, together with [words indistinct] and at the same time to participate in the democratic process. Because we are convinced that problems are not solved with violence but with understanding, security, participation and meaningful dialogue for the exchange of concepts between the various sectors, so as to take the message to the people, because utlimately it is the people who must decide their future.

This is what we want. This is what the Salvadoran people want and this is why I am sure that all Salvadorans hope to God that this violent situation will end. We ask all sectors, be they from the extreme right or left, and those who have not understood the process and even those who in some manner abuse power they may have acquired to [words indistinct] of the country.

This is why it is important that we all unite to struggle for this process and strive to create new social values, discipline and order with respect for human rights, for property and for each other. This is a vital factor and it is the basis for a new society with equal opportunities for all Salvadorans.

Now that this message of peace and hope has been stated, we can now dedicate some time for the questions which national or foreign newsmen may want to ask. Therefore, I yield the floor to the newsmen.

[Question] Rene Contreras of ANSA. Gentlemen of the junta, what is the political situation of the prisoners at the Santa Tecla prison. We received various parents at our office who have complained that political prisoners are isolated, that they are not allowed to receive visits, that all the common criminals have been evacuated and that soldiers have been brought into the prison who threaten the prisoners constantly [words indistinct]. What is their status and why is it that some trials do not proceed? We know nothing specific in the case of [words indistinct] the specific case of Camaraman Quesada, also of the power workers union workers, whom [words indistinct] and if this amnesty, of which you are talking about, could be extended to political prisoners.

[Morales Ehrlich] I believe that the political prisoners in the Santa Tecla prison, because of their intellectual capacity and their aggressiveness, may have created some problems for the rest of the prisoners. That is, they have tried indoctrinate them. On the other hand, we are working with them in a extremely gentle manner, which was the adjective used by international observers.

Unfortunately, they took advantage of this situation to try to seize portions of the penitentiary and they organized hunger strikes and other activities. In view of this, in order to guarantee their physical integrity and to keep any fanatical group or any other group from attacking [words indistinct] the Justice Ministry prepared the Sonsonate prison only for political prisoners. The common criminals were transferred to (Marioli). Therefore, they are not isolated, it's just that Santa Tecla has been prepared by order of the Justice Ministry only for political prisoners with the understanding that the number of such prisoners could increase. Political prisoners are under civilian authorities and not under military control. The treatment accorded them does not violate human rights. Naturally, political prisoners complain but this is normal among such groups of prisoners and their complaints are used for a publicity campaign by Cuba, claiming human rights violations by our government.

I can tell you in fact that their human rights are not being violated. They can be visited, but visits are limited to Thursday and Friday as in all prisons in the country. Formerly, they could be visited any day at any time and this created a situation they took advantage of. Now we are back to certain regulations decreed by the Justice Ministry for prisons.

In brief, I can tell you that their human rights are not being violated. They receive normal treatment and are visited constantly by the Red Cross. Their physical condition is checked and they are given good treatment.

I am sorry I did not answer the part about amnesty. The amnesty law applies to all those who want to lay down arms and against whom no trial is in process. Therefore, all those in the Santa Tecla prison have been previously sentenced and therefore do not fall under the amnesty law. If in the future, some amnesty law can be applies to them. This is something I cannot answer now because existing conditions would have to decide on it.

[Question] Mrs Garcia of YSL International Radio. I would like Mr Duarte to reply to the first question: How many political prisoners are there in El Salvador? The second question is for the foreign relations minister: What causes the delay in appointing the ambassador to Honduras? It has been said in Honduras that as long as there is violence in our country, they will not appoint an ambassador.

[Duarte] I believe that there are about 50 or 60 persons imprisoned for crimes against [words indistinct].

[Chavez] We have no problems in our relations with Honduras. Neither have we had any problem in the appointment of ambassadors. We have already exchanged approvals and we wanted to make the announcement of the ambassadors' appointment with the first meeting of the joint border commission to be held next week in San Salvador. [Words indistinct] next week will be installed the first session of the joint border commission and we wanted to announce the appointment of the ambassadors at the same time, also [words indistinct].

[Question] This means you have already appointed the person?

[Chavez] Yes, this is right.

[Question] Can you tell us the name?

[Chavez] I cannot. These are diplomatic affairs and information cannot be released in this manner.

[Question] Bernard (Brederich) of TIME magazine. [Words indistinct].

[Duarte] Since the question has a nationalist meaning, I shall reply in Spanish. The newsman's question asks about recent clashes and notes there are no prisoners. He wonders if it would be advisable to assure the people that the government will respect the rights and lives of all those who surrender willingly.

In this respect, I believe that the government has been very clear. It was proposed on 15 October 1980 as a simple statement made by Colonel Gutierrez during the first anniversary of the October coup. As a result of just this statement, some 300 guerrillas surrendered and these 300 men are at peace and have not had any problem. What is more, they have been protected against revenge. They are at their own homes without any problem. Therefore, we have evidence that the amnesty is a fact and that the armed forces government has made an honest and sincere proposal and we are fulfilling our commitment. Also, the law and mechanisms have been approved so that there will be no problems.

There are also other examples. I believe that during these last months you have seen prisoners on television who want to accept the amnesty and who have expressed this openly and publicly. They have also been protected by the armed forces and the government.

Therefore, when we offer amnesty, when we appeal to all those involved in guerrilla or terrorist activities, we tell them that they can be absolutely sure that when they report to any of the national garrisons and turn in their weapons, they will be given the protection included in this process.

We want to tell them that this is the spirit of peace of the Salvadoran people and that the government and the armed forces are committed to it. Therefore, this should answer your question on amnesty.

[Question indistinct]

[Duarte] This is something else, another problem, because the officer who deserted is subjected to military law. We are now talking about political amnesty.

[Question] (Gonzalez Straus) of U.S. television. What is the importance of U.S. aid [words indistinct] what is the importance of military aid and do you believe that the country will obtain more of this aid in the future? Also, what is the importance of this aid in the counteroffensive which we understand is developing so well.

[Duarte] I shall reply to the second question first. What the Salvadoran Army has done is to hold its positions and to resist the guerrilla attacks on its garrisons. From a military point of view, it is obvious that these forces must try to pursue the bandits who have attacked our garrisons. This does not mean that the army is carrying out a military offensive. They are in a position to repel the bandits who have attacked the garrisons. Therefore, the army has never waged an offensive, it has just resisted attacks.

This also means that we have not received any military aid for these operations. We have resisted with the resources we had prior to the offensive. It was only after that the offensive was over that military aid was offered. In this respect we accepted this material aid from any country to our nation. Naturally, we want to make it clear that we will never accept military forces from [words indistinct] or soldiers, or guerrillas from any nation. This would be against our country's sovereignty.

Therefore, we are willing to accept aid from any government as long as this aid does not involve any kind of intervention in our national affairs. What we have asked for, because we obviously need it, is economic aid for the country's economic development. We have asked the appropriate international organizations for this type of aid. In this respect, we have no problem with regard to [word indistinct].

I would like to add that junta member Gutierrez, who is also commander in chief of the armed forces, and the defense minister, Colonel Garcia, are with us now.

[Question] (Christopher Weiner) of London's BBC. Mr President, are you going to (?limit) press freedom and the operations of the Human Rights Commission. I ask this because some days ago the [few words indistinct] newspaper said there had been complaints because the Human Rights Commission telephone cannot be reached and last Saturday [words indistinct].

[Duarte] I think there is a confusion of terms here. Freedom of expression is one thing and abuses against it is another and [words indistinct]. This government has proved that it respects the freedom of the press law. However, we can never allow the extreme left to use it as an instrument to wage psychological warfare in the country with lies and threats. We cannot allow this. It should be very clear that we shall define what is meant by respect for the freedom of expression, which is fully guaranteed, and what is meant by abuses against it.

Take, for example, this Venezuelan gentleman who was a contact between Cayetano Carpio of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, FDR, who used his profession as a newsman to conceal his guerrilla activities. We cannot allow this. This must be made clear. Another thing we cannot allow is the use of social institutions to conceal guerrilla activities.

However, we do guarantee to any social institution that wants to strive for the fundamental rights of man, that we are ready to help them in their work. This is why we must make an appeal to all the country's social sectors so they can freely choose a human rights commission, independent of any sector, which can really guarantee these rights. It is one thing to create false institutions with vested interests and it is another thing to give the Salvadoran people institutions that serve them.

I think that it is logical that all institutions, labor unions, professionals and others choose and elect a group of honorable citizens who will guarantee the defense against any abuse. This is the goal of the defenders of human rights. In this respect, the government and the armed forces are willing to support such organizations.

[Question] Miss Alma Guillermo Prieto from England. From your statements, I understand that the Human Rights Commission is a guerrilla organization. I want to know if specific charges have been presented against it and if the cutting of the telephone communications was simply a temporary matter. The second part of my question would be if you think that human rights have been violated in the country.

[Duarte] I believe that the Salvadoran people who are listening to us can produce evidence on how this so-called Human Rights Commission has acted in a completely partial manner. It has made accusations and the latest manifesto has been an outright appeal for a national uprising. Naturally, this type of activity is well known to the Salvadoran people.

Concerning the second part of your question, I believe that the interpretation of human rights violations should make us think a little. Human rights are violated when a government institutionally acts against the people or sectors of the people. We can guarantee that the government has never taken any action against the people and their human rights, and that the armed forces as an institution, has never taken any action in this respect. Therefore, if you interpret human rights violations in this way, I can say that neither the armed forces nor the government has done it.

However, this does not mean that there is no violence which, in turn, creates the conditions for the appearance of human rights violations. Death is this. [sentence as heard] There are sectors, as we have said, where there are extreme right and left sectors which have created what we have called organized violence, throughout which they abuse their authority. But it is one thing for a person to abuse his authority, without authorization and against the principles and concepts of the government, and it is another thing for the government and the armed forces to use their institutions to violate human rights.

There is a violent situation going on in this country and this violence has caused actions resembling human rights violations, if we interpret them as I have just done.

There is also another part to this interpretation when we say: Yes, but the government is responsible for everything that happens in the country. Well, this is true, but we must see what conditions exist in this country. The country is in a state of social disorder. Values have been lost and the government has made a great effort to restore the conditions based on the moral authority and the support of all Salvadorans that existed previously. The government is trying to create the conditions that will allow social order to be restored. Then violence will end as will all these actions of some sectors against others. The violations of human rights in the country have occurred among these sectors.

I do not know if any of you would like to add anything in this respect.

[Morales Ehrlich] What we can indeed say is that in El Salvador the government and its institutions are undergoing a process of constant self-improvement and that this is obvious. I think we have now reached a reversal of the problem. It is becoming increasingly evident every day that the guerrilla forces are undergoing a process of deterioration, of degeneration and are violating human rights. When a town is attacked homes are raided, the people are subjugated, their food is stolen, they are taken hostage and indiscriminate killings are committed thus violating human rights. I think that the human rights violations committed by the front and the guerrillas this last week cannot be denied. I also think that from this we must conclude that for this reason the people have begun turning their backs on the guerrillas more and more every day because they can no longer endure the violence and the violation of fundamental rights committed by the communist forces.

I also think that it is time to make this point even more clear. Some organizations have been completely infiltrated and have become instruments of the guerrillas. This is the case of many institutions and newspapers like those mentioned this morning, which are actually no longer worth a review. [as heard]

We agree that human rights must be respected but we do not agree that the subject of human rights should be used to further the cause of the Revolutionary Democratic Front. Therefore, I think we must be more sincere and more honest in this country. This is a full-fledged propaganda campaign to misinform and to distort reality. However, I think the time has come when events have begun to clarify matters despite the campaign. The entire propaganda scheme is useless in view of the events and the reality in a country. This is what has been demonstrated this week.

[Question] Rene Hurtado of Radio Cadena Central of El Salvador. Gentlemen of the junta: Some reports received from Honduras indicate that at a site near the Salvadoran border there are approximately between 28,000 and 30,000 Salvadoran refugees. My question is: What will the government do to help those people? Additionally, you mentioned at the beginning of this conference that there are no occupied areas in the national territory. However, some foreign radio stations have received a communique from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] which states that in a few days the FMLN will announce the new revolutionary government that it has set up and that this government will be located in what they call a liberated area. What can you tell us in this regard?

[Duarte] Regarding the first question about the refugees. We do not know how many they are, but any Salvadoran who is outside of the country may return. If they are refugees, we will try to help them because this is our territory. We have done this throughout this year. We have aided a maximum of 80,000 persons in different towns in the country. Therefore, if there are persons who have gone to Honduras, they know that they can return and that the government will help as much as it can.

As far as the second question is concerned, you answered it yourself. I said that there is not a single town under the control of the guerrillas. This is so true, in fact, that the announcements are made, as your said, from abroad, in dispatches from abroad using international publicity media to announce governments which they say they are later going to transfer to the country. This means that they themselves are confirming that they have no control in the country.

This also shows how they have used and organized the extreme leftist publicity system, because they have staged a campaign that is completely out of proportion to the true situation in the country. Abroad they say things that are not true. Yesterday, I mentioned to some newsmen that Radio Havana had announced that the guerrillas had taken over the railroad that runs from Perquin to Morazan. Salvadorans know that there is no railroad from Perquin to Morazan. This is the type of information that they have released.

This demonstrates the fallacies, the lies they have used in an attempt to win the propaganda war but which bear no relation to the situation in the country.

[Question] Ricardo Medina of EFE. Mr President, one can deduce from your statements that you consider the conflict to be over, or at least that you feel it can have no other solution after Ronald Reagan's arrival today in the White House.

[Duarte] We are not here in a spirit of triumph. No. We know that we have had a very harsh confrontation, that the attempt failed. This does not mean that they cannot carry out some other action and in this regard, one thing that I can assure you and I can assure the Salvadoran people is that the government and the armed forces are on the alert to repel any attack that is launched.

I believe that the Salvadoran people are aware that on the previous weekend when the extreme left staged its attack, the final offensive, they used their entire capability and therefore, they used all the equipment and weapons that they had. This has left them vulnerable. They have lost many people and they have lost many weapons and this has weakened them greatly. Moreover, the total rejection of the Salvadoran people was made very clear. They tried all kinds of actions to stage a general strike, including threats, and everything failed, because the people have rejected them. This is perhaps the most important thing. Most important, I think that it is absolutely clear that there is no revolution without popular support, and the extreme left's actions have not had support and have been rejected by the Salvadoran people.

[Question] Raul Beltran Bonilla of UPI. Members of the junta: On 15 October, it was said that the University of El Salvador would be freed in the month of October. Later, Morales Ehrlich said that it would be this month and yesterday it was learned from university authorities that they have not had any official notice of the release of the university. What could you tell us in this regard?

[Morales] It had been decided to open the university on 15 December. Because some arrangements, some physical repairs had not beem completed, it was decided to open the university in early January. I have to say that we cannot open it right now. We have to wait until the situation is stabilized, because we do not want to create a new problem. However, it will be turned back over to the same authorities because it is necessary for that university to be opened. However, I think it is logical to realize that we are not going to open it this week.

[Question] (Jan Schmidt) of Radio Netherlands. I would like to ask two questions. My first question will be the second part of the question of Mr (Viveres) which was not answered. [word indistinct] confirmed yesterday that during the last week of fighting, there were almost 1,000 casualties on the guerrilla side. There are reportedly also many guerrillas who were taken prisoner. Could you give us exact figures on the number of prisoners taken among the guerrillas? That would be the first question. The second question refers to the dialogue that you mentioned. Which of the points suggested by the guerrillas could be the subject of a dialogue between the guerrillas and the government? Could this dialogue result in a government in which the president would be, for example, a member of the FDR?

[Duarte] Let us divide that into two questions. The first one, obviously, is military information. The military members of the junta would have to answer, either the commander in chief or another chief chosen by him. The second question concerns the concept of dialogue. Let us understand what is meant by dialogue. Dialogue means not to negotiate a government, but to negotiate a process and the process means that all Salvadorans want to have the opportunity to aspire to a public post, including the Presidency of the republic, through elections. What must be neogitated, therefore, is how to arrange for all those who want to express their viewpoints and to present their options to the people to do so, putting aside their weapons and using democratic instruments. The only condition for dialogue, then, is to really accept the democratic path.

Now, we are a transitional government, not a permanent government. We are willing to relinquish power as soon as possible and for this, we propose a convening of elections as soon as possible. We think that we will announce the central elections council this week and then the council will have a certain period to prepare the instruments and to schedule elections. It is in this way that we propose dialogue, because one should not negotiate behind the people's backs and only the people can decide what the country's government should be. The second part of the question will be answered by Colonel Guiterrez.

[Gutierrez] [Words indistinct] we cannot say how many of the enemy were captured. There will be (?very few), and on the part of the army there were none captured either.

You have to see that the type of war being waged by those people has consisted of attacking with a large number of troops, a large quantity of persons attacking small garrisons where the army troops have a very limited mobilization capability. They have attacked garrisons like that of Metapan, (Chalchuapa) and [word indistinct], with large contingents, and they have buried the bodies. Our forces were so small that it was impossible to maneuver. When they have come up against armed forces contingents that did have maneuvering capability, [words indistinct], therefore, in the case of Morazan, for example, the troops which attacked Morazan numbered from 1,000 to 1,500 and our forces were very small in number. This means that it is difficult to keep count because they even carry away the injured. Very few remain. They carry away the injured and the dead. [sentence indistinct]

Part Two

PA221752 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Jan 81

["Second and last part" of news conference by Salvadoran junta members Jose Napoleon Duarte, Jaime Abdul Gutierrez, Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich; Defense Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia; Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena; and Planning Minister Atilio Vieytez W. at the presidential palace at 1600 GMT on 20 January--recorded]

[Text] [Question] I have two questions. One is for Col Jaime Abdul Gutierrez and I would like for him to tell us what Colonel Majano's situation within the armed forces is. Is he considered a deserter or has a trial been begun against him? What is his situation? The second question is for President Duarte. Would you be willing to negotiate directly with the Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR] and under what conditions? Would you be willing to support an initiative that has apparently come from the Italian Christian Democrats regarding a meeting of the Socialist International with the international Christian Democrats to promote this dialogue?

[Gutierrez] Well, that is a question that is repeatedly asked. I couldn't really tell you what Colonel Majano is doing. [Words indistinct] he was offered a post abroad which he didn't accept. He then made a number of statements in which he contradicted himself and said that he did not accept [words indistinct]. He later accused the government of a number of things and he disappeared. Of course, I cannot state that he is in rebellion because he has not stated this. [Few sentences indistinct] Only he knows what he is doing. [passage indistinct]

[Duarte] I think that I have clearly explained in the previous answers that we are willing to hold a dialogue. I have clearly stated that the conditions are that those sectors which want to hold a dialogue and which are participating in the guerrilla actions must lay down their weapons in order to incorporate themselves into the democratic process. That is the objective and for that objective one must hold a dialogue. In this way, they will be able to participate, helping the Salvadoran people make their own decision. That is the objective. We are willing to hold a dialogue for this purpose. I have frankly stated this domestically and internationally.

A few months ago, through an Italian television station, I proposed that if the social democratic, socialist and communist forces of Italy wanted to be intermediaries in the search for peace in the country we would be willing (?to participate in a dialogue). In this sense, I think you are referring to a document that the Italian Christian Democratic Party, or one of the prominent members of the Italian Christian Democratic Party, sent to President Mariano Rumor of the World Christian Democratic Union saying that an international meeting between social democracy and Christian democracy would be advisable. I think you know that I am vice president of the world union and therefore, if there is a dialogue or discussion between social democracy and the World Christian Democratic Union, I would participate in such a meeting.

Furthermore, in accordance with the belief and agreement of the revolutionary government junta and the Salvadoran people, I can state here that I am willing to go anywhere to talk with social democrats in the pursuit of peace. I must tell you that I think it is inconsistent that one of the most prominent world forces such as social democracy is on the side of violence, Marxism and totalitarianism instead of working to establish democracy through the electoral process which is the essence of what we democrats believe in. That is why I would like to issue a call to those who still think they are social democrats in El Salvador to work for the people. That is why the San Miguel municipal judge was murdered yesterday, because he was a member of social democracy who was working with us.

Therefore, we are willing to hold a dialogue. We think that social democracy is forgetting a very important thing: Europe has remained democratic thanks to the joint effort of the two great international institutions: social democracy and Christian democracy. The communists have cleverly gotten in the middle to prevent the joint efforts to defend democracy in Europe for 30 years. As a result of their attitude, some sectors of social democracy are endangering European security. Once that union is broken it is possible that there may be a phenomenon of Marxist and communist actions in Europe which prevent the maintenance of European democracy. This is then, the entire geopolitical concept that the Marxist sectors have planned for Latin America. Therefore, that is why a world level dialogue between social democracy and Christian democracy is important. I repeat: I am willing to go anywhere to discuss that topic.

[Question] Eric Nepomuceno of [name indistinct] magazine of Brazil. I have a question for Duarte and another for Colonel Garcia as defense minister. Mr Duarte, I would like to know the following: The United States has been backing the various juntas since October 1979. However, the conflict in El Salvador now seems to have reached its highest level. What does the government expect the U.S. support to be under the new administration? To the defense minister, I would like to know to what extent the Salvadoran Armed Forces had estimated the attack ability of the guerrilla movements.

[Duarte] I think I have already answered the first question in the sense that the Reagan administration is the product of democracy. As a product of democracy, the role that the Reagan administration must play in the world and in Latin America is to contribute to the efforts to have democracy "prevail in all countries. Democracy means respect of the peoples' decision, the peoples' self-determination. That is why the U.S. Government cannot and should not intervene either with troops or with other factors anywhere which might involve an intervention. Instead, it should help in the eradication of misery, hunger and malnutrition which are the most important enemies of the underdeveloped countries. It should help in the trade relations so that the peoples won't get poorer as a result of international negotiations. This is the type of action that we expect from the United States. I don't know if you want to add anything to this.

[Atilio Vieytez] Well, I would just like to add that since the U.S. transition team followed the development of events in El Salvador closely and with much interest and having personally held talks with high-level officials of that transition team, it is evident that there is a great deal of understanding regarding what is occurring in the country. The most important thing which has been noted in the past few days has been that the actions of the extreme leftist groups have served to consolidate an image which up to now had been quite abused. In the streets of San Salvador you can sense that there is an atmosphere of greater confidence and that confidence is the result of the fact that the interests of the Salvadoran people have prevailed. This crisis which we have experienced for the past few months has to a great extent been artificial and has contained elements which are the result of the hegemonistic aims of Russia and Cuba. After this last offensive we have become aware that the radical positions of the left do not really have the support of the Salvadoran people. El Salvador has endured this great crisis for several months. The Salvadoran people have rejected the two extreme positions.

In this sense, I support what Duarte said to the effect that the government does not maintain a triumphant position because the military defeat of the extreme left has been a positive success of the Salvadoran people who support work and nationalism. It has also helped in that those of the extreme right who had hoped that the change in the U.S. administration would help bring back their lands, banks and all their past privileges will be convinced that the Salvadoran people are determined to work and to be respected. In light of the people's decision to go their own way without ideological impositions from abroad and without following radical positions, we in the government believe that the Reagan administration will be very respectful of the people's decision which has been made evident during the past few days.

[Garcia] Thank you for the opportunity to try to answer this question. First, I would like to tell you that any army, any professional armed force bases its actions on its appraisals of the situation. In our country, our armed forces are small. Our country is a developing country but it is a country with dignity the same as our institution. We had foreseen what has occurred. As a professional army with its deficiencies, errors and defects but working professionally, our armed forces foresaw all that is happening. We work on the basis of hypotheses regarding the possible actions of the enemies of the government, the people and the armed forces. On the basis of these possibilities, the armed forces established courses of action. This is the technical job of an armed institution. We have stressed many times that an army is not weapons but the correct use of weapons. Based on their possibilities, we established our course of action. Some of you have heard us say on previous occasions that we did not want to reach this point because we knew what would be the consequences.

I don't think it is too late to tell these enemies of the people, government and the armed forces that they should change weapons, that they should turn in the weapons they use for killing and take up the weapons of votes which are used to express one's opinion. The armed institutions guarantee the free exercise of the will of a people. We have always insisted that we feared the military solution due to the consequences it has. We had insisted on political situations. We did not seek a military solution. The military solution was provoked by them.

Well, it took place and perhaps it is a good idea to emphasize that this military solution was carried out by the armed forces alone, and I mean, without any foreign aid, from anybody--we did not receive any aid, not even from the United States, and we solved our problem alone. Aid has been offered, and I am sure, in an opportune manner. We must consolidate what we have achieved so far: the well-being of the Salvadoran people.

However, we emphasize that our small armed institution has given a demonstration--and it is not being overly proud, nor is it patting itself on the back--but we simply say that we did not want these results and that is why we insisted on another type of solution. I think we still have time, I think we now have the conditions necessary for the classic political solutions.

Therefore, the armed forces guarantees, in the near future, to do everything possible so that the elections will be completely free, that there will be absolute freedom so that the Salvadoran people will be able to elect their ruler in the correct way, through the will of the majority of the Salvadorans who will show what they want. We, the members of the armed forces, think that in the country, there is a new type of referendum, the referendum of the people who said no to violence, who said no to abuses, not to this type of solution.

Therefore, to answer your question, and with all due satisfaction and respect, I tell you that yes, the armed forces had considered those possibilities, and yes, we had estalished our course of action.

[Question] Eric Nepomuceno, of [name indistinct] magazine of Brazil. In those analyses which I presume you made, do you expect a new type of offensive similar to the one last week?

[Garcia] We, the military, think that there may be not 1, but 200 more offensives. We have thought about that.

[Question] Jesus Eberio, of the Madrid publication EL PAIS. Mr President, you have said that the electoral process might take place in 1982 with a constituent assembly; in 1983 with the Presidency of the republic. Is this schedule still in effect, or is it going to modified? In the second place, will the Marxist parties be allowed to participate in this electoral process?

[Duarte] The government junta made the announcement on 15 October 1980 in a speech delivered by Colonel Gutierrez establishing the plan. The plan notes that early this year, in approximately 1 week, we are going to appoint the Central Electoral Council and that the council has from 6 to 10 months to prepare two instruments: the electoral law and the electoral registry. This allows sufficient time for the creation of political parties of all currents. With this, I mean to tell you that all political paries of all currents who accept the fundamental concepts of democracy will be able to participate with no restriction other than that of accepting democratic discipline.

Then, we will immediately call for the elections, which we estimate will be held sometime late this year; the Central Electoral Council will convoke the elections for the national constituent assembly [sentence as heard] we think around March or May [no year given]. We will have the new constituent assembly that will revise the draft constitution which is being prepared right now by the Justice Ministry. Once this is done, the constituent assembly itself will determine the form of government and convoke the elections for president of the republic. That is the plan which was presented at that time, and we are upholding it.

[Question] Eberio. Then that constituent will merely study a draft constitution which is being prepared right now. Will the members of this constituent assembly be empowered to draft a constitution?

[Duarte] Yes, a basic draft document will be presented in order for the constituent assembly to have a point of reference. However, the constituent assembly is free and sovereign to establish the constitution of the country. That is why it is a constituent assembly.

[Question] Renato Camarda of Pacifica Radio, Washington, DC. Mr President, gentlemen of the junta: Could you please tell us if you have already set a date for lifting the curfew. And second, could you please explain the nature of the military operation which I believe is being carried out right now at the Central American University? According to a report, the university has been surrounded and raided. Also, the Salvadoran ambassador to Nicaragua, Dr Roberto Castellanos Figueroa, has resigned his post and apparently has joined the Revolutionary Democratic Front. It has also been said that some soldiers have recently deserted. My question is: Does this mean that subversion has reached very high levels under the present circumstances.

[Duarte] Well, in the first place, I wish to tell you that there has not been such military operation at the Jose Simeon Canas University, nor has it been raided, although we have a right to do this. The truth is that we received a report that there was going to be a meeting of certain people and measures were taken to prevent them from going out. Then our intelligence sources learned that there was no need to enter. Therefore, we did not enter. In any case, they have already withdrawn. But it is not true that the university has been raided. We did not go in. And in the present situation, we can go wherever it is necessary and the Jose Simeon Canas University is no exception. We can go anywhere. We have to guarantee order and peace in this country and this means that wherever order is disrupted, we will be there. No matter where. That was the first part of the question. I do not remember what the second part was about.

Oh yes, the curfew. The curfew will be maintained by the military authorities, the ones who established it in the various zones of the country, until conditions are favorable. We think this has served to protect the civilian population from all the attacks the terrorists were conducting throughout the country every night. You have noticed the last few days have been the calmest. The curfew was established. There have been no criminal attacks in the metropolitan area. San Salvador is a case where you can see that no actions have taken place.

On the other hand, we believe this guarantees that the enemies of the government will be unable to carry out the movements and arms supply operations they carried out at night. Therefore, the curfew will be maintained until conditions in the country guarantee that the people will have the tranquillity and peace they need so badly. We cannot set a date. There was another question I do not remember.

[Unidentified speaker] Regarding the recent defection of the Salvadoran ambassador to Nicaragua, sir, and whether this means that a personality of rather high rank was perhaps worried that subversion had broken out at levels... [leaves thought incomplete]

[Gutierrez] Well, the truth is that, in a desire to grant participation to all the political forces, we named an ambassador to Nicaragua whose political affiliation had a certain slant.

I think that what happened with the ambassador is that he gave too much credence to Radio Sandino's reports and thought this was his opportunity to cross lines to the side which he thought was correct.

Therefore, we are not concerned about the defection of the ambassador because, as a matter of fact, the Foreign Ministry was about to reach the decision to shuffle the entire diplomatic corps. This was going to be done throughout Latin America and particularly in Europe. He was one of those to be replaced.

[Question] Mr Talavera of Mexican Television Channel 13. I would like to ask two questions. The first goes to Engineer Duarte. Do you know when Mexican oil will begin arriving in this country based on the agreements signed between Mexico and Venezuela? The second question, a technical one, goes to the planning minister. Can you give us data on the foreign debt, the foreign exchange reserve and the growth rate of the country?

[Duarte] I think it is best that the planning minister answer the entire question.

[Atilio Vieytez] Regarding the oil shipments from Mexico, I am able to report to you that the first such shipment arrived approximately 1 week ago, for tests. The first ship has already arrived and has been unloaded. Regarding your other question, I will brief you first about the reserve situation. In this sense, we must first of all define the concept of overall reserves. We would have the so-called gross reserves and the net international reserves. Allow me to refer to the first of these two categories, that is, to the gross reserves.

The gross reserves include all our gold reserves and other means of payment [instrumentos] of the international financial system which can be accounted for as reserves, particularly the special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund and all other facilities available. In this regard, I can state to you that the country's gold reserves are intact, as they have always been. At one time we carried out a small transaction during which our gold was pledged, but it was cancelled in due time. So, we have gold worth approximately 225 million colones, valued at the legal price to us and not at market value, which would be much higher. The reserve is valued at $42 an ounce, from which you can surmise that it is worth a good deal more.

Regarding the net international reserves, which consist of the difference between our short-term commitments and the funds we have available, despite the negative position in which coffee exports remained during 1980--even bearing in mind the drop in prices, in addition to loan contracts signed with international banks and even though the position of the net reserves is still negative--we have managed to maintain a relatively normal flow of imports for production in this country.

Excuse me, what was the other point about which you asked?

[Question] How much is the foreign debt?

[Vieytez] Oh, yes. Regarding the foreign debt, El Salvador is one of the American countries which have traditionally maintained a very low level of foreign indebtedness. In absolute figures, the total foreign debt during its entire history, that is, the pending debt at this moment totals approximately $500 million. This includes loans contracted 20 years ago which are still pending.

El Salvador is one of the Latin American countries maintaining a low foreign debt ratio. One way to measure this is to compare the payments that have to be made annually to amortize this debt with the amount of foreign exchange we receive from our exports. This ratio has never exceeded 7 percent. You can compare this ratio with that of other countires--even some countries in this area--whose ratio is approximately 30 percent of the value of their exports. This denotes an extremely positive borrowing capacity.

Regarding the growth rate, the national economy began to decline in 1978. Compared to 1977, the year 1978 reflected a drop of approximately 1.5 percent. The drop in 1979, compared to 1978, was 2 percent. Compared to 1979, the year 1980 reflected a net drop of 4.6 percent. Fortunately, our indicators show that this drop will have stopped by the end of the first quarter and that we will begin an economic stabilization stage that will allow us to show a tendency to grow within 6 months.

[Question] Pedro Talavera of Channel 13 of Mexico. [words indistinct] import of Mexican petroleum?

[Vieytez] Yes, we are consuming between $12 and $13 million worth a month and half of this comes from Mexico.

[Quesion] Mario Rosenthal of San Salvador's the NEWS GAZETTE. Gentlemen of the government: The new administration justified its assumption of power on the basis of the previous regimes' corruption and abuse of power. Can you tell me what cases of corruption have been found? I have heard some [words indistinct] of the president but I would like to hear [words indistinct]

[Duarte] I have already given some examples of the work that is being performed by the government offices, the attorney general's office and the Court of Accounts of the Republic along with the superintendancies of banks, mercantile and autonomous institutions. In this way, their work will serve as a basis for us to denounce the deeds. I have given some examples. One of them is in the social fund and another is in the Federation of Credit Banks where investigations have been undertaken and where there are indications that those funds have been mismanaged. In time we will be releasing more information. I do not want to give additional details at this time. I hope that in time I will be able to give more details of cases of corruption which have taken place.

I can say that we have instructed all the ministers to make an up-to-the-minute investigation of each ministry and to report all actions of corruption. In addition, we have asked the Salvadoran people to publicly report any action of corruption or fraud. We have also asked the news media to publicize them so we can act and so that the people can correct all these defects. In this sense, the government is waiting to receive these reports and these denunciations.

I would also like to refer to the decree on economic stabilization, because some sectors do not want to fulfill the decree. For example, EL DIARIO DE HOY reported a charge today about the El Meson Gloria in [name indistinct] whose owner apparently has not accepted the 40-percent cut and is trying to propose just a 5-colones reduction. We are not going to accept this. Orders have already been issued for an inspection so that the fines and punishment which the law establishes will be applied.

I think that with this we can end this news conference. I now ask Dr Ramon Avalos to address the Salvadoran people in a final message.

[Avalos] Salvadoran people: We have arrived at one more stage which the extremist forces promised or threatened us with. For over a year we have been hearing threats against the people, such as a black September, a black December, a black February, a bloody May. On this occasion, for weeks they had been announcing that they had to seize power by force before the inauguration of Mr Reagan in the United States. They wanted Reagan to find an irreversible situation here. But the men of the extreme left did not take the people into account. They made a mistake in their evaluation of the Salvadoran Armed Forces and the people's will. They launched their final offensive in three areas on 10 January. They did so militarily with the actions that we are all aware of. In the political and social sectors they called the people to a general strike. In the international sector they did so through a propaganda campaign full of lies.

Militarily, we all know what has occurred. In the political and social sectors the people turned their backs on the extremist forces. All of you said no, we don't want a Marxist government. We don't want any more violence.

As my fellow junta members and Colonel Garcia have said, we are not here to boast of our victory but neither do we want to downplay the actions of our armed forces and you as a people. The Salvadoran people must be proud that they have armed forces which have known how to reply during the most difficult moments. They should also feel proud of the action of the people who said: No, we don't want that type of government.

Gentlemen, we must also be alert. The struggle has not ended. We must be alert because the actions of those gentlemen will continue. We must be ready and all of you must have confidence that this government and its armed forces will defend the Salvadoran people and the nation's territorial integrity.

We must be aware of the seriousness of the current situation. The people must also know that the revolutionary process will not end. The revolutionary process that this government began on 15 October 1979 will continue. We are going to continue the advances we have promised. The reforms will be consolidated and will be continued. Thank you very much, Salvadoran people.

ARMY SAYS FMLN REGROUPING FOR NEW OFFENSIVE

PA230112 Paris AFP in Spanish 0044 GMT 22 Jan 81

[By Juan Nicolas Gaudenzi]

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Jan (AFP)--The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) combatants in El Salvador, who participated in the offensive launched on 10 January, are receiving military and political support from their command centers in order to launch a new attack, it was learned here today.

Armed forces spokesmen affirmed to this agency that after the setbacks of the past few days the guerrillas have managed to regroup in several parts of the country to obtain weapons, ammunition and equipment as well as instructions on new goals and tactics, in accordance with the new situation.

The first results of this phase of the guerrilla's activities have already been seen in the central area of the country where the FMLN forces attacked the town of Santa Clara today, in San Vicente Department, and set fire to a shop in Suchitoto, in Cuscatlan Department.

In military circles it was observed that at the beginning of the week the rebels received orders to withdraw to their bases and camps in the interior, while continuing to harass the army. According to an officer, there they are reorganizing militarily and politically.

As evidence of this, he referred to a report from another international news agency according to which the Honduran Army had intercepted a large cargo of smuggled weapons sent to the Salvadoran guerrillas and had seized the truck carrying the weapons. According to this source, three vehicles were involved. Two of them had actually managed to enter Salvadoran territory and had finally reached their destination.

Regarding the possibility of a mass attack on the capital, a rumor that circulated here at noon today, the military sources did not disagree with it and recalled that most of the country's economic and political activities are concentrated in San Salvador.

The armed forces predict that once they have recovered, the guerrillas will launch a general attack against strategic targets in the capital, such as the power plants, the communications lines and the roads.

They feel that it is vitally important for the FMLN to paralyze the capital's productive activity and, having failed in their calls for a general strike, they need to violently interrupt the electrical supply, the fuel supply and the transportation services.

This morning's attack on a gasoline station, which was burned in downtown San Salvador, would fall within this framework. Several brief confrontations also occurred this morning in the northeastern part of the capital between the government forces and the guerrillas.

Nevertheless, the guerrillas are now reacting to a different situation than the one which has been described, since the clashes were caused by the army in the course of a search-and-destroy operation against guerrilla bases. The operation began with the first light of day in several neighborhoods located in the outskirts of the capital.

Further Details

PA221525 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Jan ANN--Violent clashes occurred today in at least four cities around this capital in which there were heavy casualties sustained by the forces loyal to the Christian Democratic-military junta.

In Soyapango, San Roque, Santa Clara and San Antonio Abad, among others, guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] appear to have begun a second stage of their general offensive launched on 10 January across the nation.

Witnesses of the clashes report that the FMLN's attack lasted approximately 1 hour and that the Salvadoran Army sustained heavy casualties. In San Roque, at least 200 soldiers had to repel the attack of combatants, who ambushed several army trucks on patrol in the nearby coffee plantations. Seven soldiers lost their way and lost contact with the rest of the government troops while a light plane flew over the combat zone and three ambulances of the armed forces arrived to evacuate the military casualties.

In Cinquera, Cabanas Department, the military garrison has been without communications since yesterday afternoon and Defense Ministry authorities today admitted that for now, it is impossible to send supplies to this garrison.

To the north of Chalatenango Department, in Las Vueltas, FMLN guerrillas caused at least 10 casualties to the government troops. The wounded were taken to the military hospital of this capital.

In San Antonio de los Ranches, in the same department, fighting has continued for the past 3 days between military and army troops [as heard]. It was learned that this morning, the FMLN forces executed at least one member of the paramilitary forces of the area. Residents of the area are fleeing. It was reported that since 0700, the army is bombing the area with helicopters.

In addition, a FMLN commando presented to a news conference a national guardsman taken prisoner in Tecoluca, San Vicente Department, east of San Salvador. The guardsman, identified as Manuel de Jesus Rivas Escalante, 20, received medical attention for the wounds sustained during his capture and stated that he had been treated well by his captors. He added that he had joined the national guard because he could not find work and he had to support his elderly mother and several young brothers. We have orders not to take prisoners, the young Salvadoran national guardsman said.

Yesterday the government called off the national radio hookup but suddenly today, all radio stations started the day hooked up to the official program in which attempts are being systematically made to try to raise the morale of the armed forces and charges are made of the alleged interventions of neighboring countries in support of the insurgents of this country, who have been fighting underground for at least the past 10 years.

Since the curfew began, the army has killed at least 125 persons who were rounded up by the various security corps between 1900 and 0500. In the framework of martial law, they shoot first and ask questions later.

Power Blackout

PA221432 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1256 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Electric service has been restored throughout the country after having been interrupted for 7 hours in the northern, western and southeastern parts of the country as a result of several bomb explosions in several powerplants.

Meanwhile, since the blackout (between 0445 and 1145 GMT) sporadic shooting was reported in the Salvadoran capital, while ambulance and patrol sirens were heard, especially in the southeastern part of the capital.

According to information received by ACAN-EFE from a spokesman of the Light Company of El Salvador (CAES), "the areas affected included Chalatenango (to the north) and three-fourths of San Salvador. A bomb apparently exploded in the Apopa plant (located 50 km north of San Salvador)."

A spokesman of the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Committee confirmed that "the entire western sector of the country was affected by the blackout, while in the capital, the lights went out throughout the city except the eastern sector."

The spokesman explained "that we believe a bomb exploded in our Miralvalle central (to the northwest of the capital), and aside from practically all of San Salvador, the Departments of Santa Ana (second city of the country), Ahuachapan, Sonsonate (all of these in the west), La Libertad (to the south), and Chalatenango (to the north), were affected.

"In the rest of the country, that is the eastern sector, nothing happened. We have no information of any other area affected, although it is possible that there may have been other bomb explosions," the spokesman added.

Military Spokesman on Attacks

PA230115 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1957 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 22 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Twelve days after the beginning of a "general offensive" against the current Salvadoran regime, the leftwing guerrillas have continued their "harrassment actions" against military posts and towns in the interior of the country.

A spokesman of the "Armed Forces Press Committee" (COPREFA) confirmed this morning, Thursday, to ACAN-EFE that the "harrassment actions were staged in at least three towns in the interior during Wednesday night and this morning."

In Corinto, 193 km northeast of the capital, the garrison was attacked but no casualties have been reported thus far, Col Alfonso Coto, COPREFA spokesman stated.

Other attacks were staged by the guerrillas in Santa Clara, 88 km east of San Salvador and on California Ranch, Tierra Blanca, 85 km southeast of the capital, Coto explained.

The attacks have occurred at a time when a renewed leftwing "general offensive" was anticipated on the occasion of the 49th anniversary of the quelling of a peasant rebellion promoted by the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES) in 1932. The government, which at that time was headed by Gen Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez, massacred more than 32,000 peasants.

PAPER SAYS SIX CUBAN LEFTISTS KILLED IN CLASHES

PA222222 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 22 Jan 81 pp 3, 20

[Excerpt] Six Cuban members of the leftist groups fighting in El Salvador have been killed in clashes.

According to a report by FOCUS ON LATIN MAERICA, a Miami-based publication distributed throughout America, this proves foreign involvement in the leftists' struggle in El Salvador. The report also gives the names of the Cuban extremists who were killed, including Ezequiel Montseny (brother to General Montseny Villa). The names of the other Cubans are: Arturo Arencibia Lopez, Alberto Romero Pagola, Angel Farinas, Alberto Carro de Agua and Margarito Fuentes.

According to confidential reports disseminated by that publication, a helicopter carrying Cuban Gen Abelardo Colome Ibarra picked up the six Cubans' bodies and took them to Nicaragua.

ARMY INVESTIGATING ATTEMPTED GUERRILLA LANDING

PA221827 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1725 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 22 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--An attempted guerrilla landing before dawn today on the Pacific coast, 34 km south of San Salvador, is being investigated by the army, the Armed Forces Press Committee [COPREFA] confirmed today.

"We had reports that three boats or launches attempted to land an undetermined number of guerrillas in the vicinity of La Libertad but that they fled when they became aware of the presence of the armed forces," COPREFA Col Alfonso Coto told ACAN-EFE.

The Salvadoran Navy and Armed Forces have begun patrolling the area of the unsuccessful landing to detect the presence of subversives.

The colonel said that "one of the boats fled out to the high seas, one went east and the third went west, which is why the armed forces were unable to intercept them."

PUBLIC SECTORS REITERATE SUPPORT FOR ARMY

PA222154 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 22 Jan 81 p 3

[Excerpt] Public sectors led by the Popular Orientation Party have reiterated their support for the armed forces, which have upheld the principle of being the guarantor of national sovereignty during difficult national times.

The political spokesmen added that they have contended that the only way to safeguard the principle of constitutional legality is by going to the polls where the people will decide who will rule.

FDR DENOUNCES U.S. EFFORT TO INVOKE RIO PACT

PA221621 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] A press communique issued by the Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR] of El Salvador has denounced an interventionist maneuver by the United States which seeks to convince the Governments of Venezuela, Costa Rica and Colombia to support a military intervention in El Salvador through the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance signed by the OAS.

The United States is making great efforts to convince its friends of the need for military action in El Salvador to avoid the collapse of the military-Christian Democratic regime. The FDR communique also charges that the U.S. Government is exerting pressure at the OAS before presenting the proposal and already has some favorable votes at the OAS. In the event it obtains the support of the Costa Rican, Venezuelan and Colombian Governments--the (?traditionally democratic) governments--this would in a certain way counter the reaction of nations such as Mexico, Nicaragua and Ecuador, which are opposed to any type of intervention, the FDR communique issued in San Jose said.

FDR REPORTS ARRIVAL OF U.S. MILITARY AID, ADVISERS

PA221605 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Excerpt] The Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR] of El Salvador has reported that 287 U.S. military advisers have arrived in El Salvador and that the U.S. supply of arms to the Salvadoran military junta was massive and very sophisticated.

Likewise, the FDR denied it had sustained the loss of 1,000 companeros and explained that this was the number of civilians indiscriminately murdered in air attacks, bombardments and the direct repression of the Salvadoran military junta.

FMLN'S CAYETANO CARPIO ON OFFENSIVE, STRIKE

PA230352 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 20 Jan 81 pp 1, 9

[First part of interview with Salvador Cayetano Carpio, leader of El Salvador's Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, by Ricardo Trejos Maldonado, held somewhere in Central America; no date given]

[Excerpts] Companero Deputy Director Danilo Aguirre made the arrangements so that we could go to where the coordinator of the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) was.

He is a fighter who was a baker for many years, named Salvador Cayetano Carpio, whose nomme de guerre is "Marcial." In addition to this being an exclusive interview, EL NUEVO DIARIO is the first newspaper to offer its readership pictures of Commander Marcial. This is the first interview he had held in 10 years without hiding his face.

"We think that, in view of the successes reported in the military insurrection and the people's involvement in the general strike, our revolution could have natural differences in the projections for the overall offensive.

"Right now our movement is following the expected course of every military-political offensive. If our people push forward with the same force that they are now pushing, we are certain that victory is near."

The Revolutionary Government

Question. What is delaying the formation of the national government?

Answer. There is no delay. The FMLN General Command will decide the opportune moment to proclaim it within the overall scheme of things: politically, diplomatically and depending on the domestic military offensive.

Honduras and Guatemala

Question. How have the governments and armies of Honduras and Guatemala been involved in stopping or trying to stop the advance of the armed Salvadoran people?

Answer. "For several months both armies have been helping the puppet army of El Salvador in one way or the other to try to put an end to the revolutionary movement. Generally, the Honduran Army has been applying pressure from the other side of the border. For instance, between 10 and 15 January it organized a search operation along the border with no fewer than 3,000 soldiers, a joint maneuver with the Salvadoran Army.

"The maneuver was completely frustrated, due to the losses and setbacks experienced by the Salvadoran Army in the hinterland.

"However, we understand that there is not complete unanimity within the Honduran Army or the government itself regarding a policy of aggression against our people. We understand that there are healthy feelings of independence, of not letting themselves be manhandled by U.S. imperialism, and we hail that attitude.

"We cannot ignore the fact that imperialism has been arming the Honduran Army very heavily in order to use it.

"As far as the Guatemalan Army is concerned, we can see that it is facing major problems, because the fraternal Guatemalan people are waging an intense liberation struggle. We are fraternal nations undergoing a single revolutionary movement (with its natural differences).

"The entire Central American revolutionary movement has historic similarities.

"For these reasons, the Guatemalan Army has to take precautionary measures because its hands are tied.

"However, it has sent a large contingent to the border, especially to Chinamas and San Cristobal, threatening Santa Ana Department. This is a very well armed, mobile force which will be added to the forces deployed by the Guatemalan Government along the border.

"If the Guatemalan Army commits a direct act of aggression, undoubtedly the peoples of Guatemala and El Salvador will be able to solve the problem."

The Strike

Question. What importance do you attach to the national strike and how would you view its results?

The interview was held somewhere in Central America. For security reasons, we had to agree to cover our eyes so as not to know the location.

Of course, time is golden for a general command member.

However, he answered 11 questions on the current war situation, its strategy, the results of the evaluation of the general offensive begun on 10 January, the formation of the national government, imperialist intervention, the national strike, Colonel Majano and other topics that the daily news does not explain.

The First Question

Question. Within the framework of the Salvadoran people's war against the oligarchy and imperialism, how do you define the actions which have been taken as of 10 January?

Answer. To us, the successful military insurrectional offensive that the Salvadoran people have been carrying out since 10 January is the beginning of the strategic battles to win over power.

And he adds: "The thrust, the magnitude, the force of the offensive has surprised the Salvadoran Army and U.S. imperialism, since it has shown the great military capability of our commanders in the battlefield."

And he goes on: "It has come as a surprise due to the courage of our fighters, their profound conviction on behalf of the interests of the people, the great coordination, the simultaneous timing of the various attacks and the firepower used against the military targets of the reactionary forces in El Salvador."

He said: "Imperialism and its puppets had speculated on the possibility of a mass offensive by our people and to some extent they mocked it. Therefore, the offensive was not unexpected by the enemy. However, the thrust of our forces came as a surprise; it wrecked all the enemy plans, and confused them. Right now the counterrevolutionary forces are unable to move. They have been stopped throughout the country. Many of their forces are fixed in one place due to the onslaught of our columns.

"In several townships the insurrection has been enthusiastically welcomed and the enemy has found it difficult to send its forces into the areas of greatest danger.

"The enemy said it was ready but the results of the offensive showed that it has been weakened, eroded and lost ground."

The Enemy Cannot Move

"Right now we could say that the enemy is in a very serious strategic situation. It cannot gather enough strength to crush our forces in one area because then it cannot move, as has actually occurred. This means," he stated, "that the military and insurrectional objectives have been fully achieved. The war picture is very optimistic for our people"

Similarities To September?

Question. Some people in Nicaragua have found similarities between these ..tions and the events of September 1978 in Nicaragua. This means that it will still be several months before the Salvadoran people achieve a complete victory. What can you say about this?

Answer. "I think the people who find similarities between the two revolutions are correct, because all revolutions have their similarities. However, they also have differences. Therefore, it is difficult to draw a complete analogy between the September phase of the Sandinist peoples revolution and the January phase of the military and insurrectional offensive of our people.

Answer. "The national strike has been progressively evolving. The government's radio network has tried to hide the fact that the people are progressively joining the general strike. Workers have responded in a very patriotic and enthusiastic way. The strike must not be viewed as something isolated but as something within a threefold framework: military actions, the popular insurrection and the people's participation in the general strike."

ANTI-SANDINISTS REPORT SITE OF RADIO LIBERATION

PA221913 Tegucigalpa La Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1145 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Communique issued by the Press and Information Committee of the Anti-Sandinist Democratic Armed Forces, "from somewhere in Nicaragua," dated 20 January 1981--read by announcer]

[Text] The Democratic Armed Forces announce to world opinion, particularly to the peoples and governments of the sister nations of Central America, that our intelligence services have absolutely confirmed the following facts which are part of the operation planned by the Castroite regime to extend communist domination to the Central American area, using Nicaragua as its base of operations, for which the national leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front has servilely yielded the territory and natural resources of our abused fatherland:

1. The clandestine radio station known as Radio Liberation, voice of the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front, the Marxist-Leninist organization responsible for the latest armed activities in El Salvador, is located on and transmits from Nicaraguan territory, from the Cosihuina Farm, owned by the Gazteazoro Family, in Chinandega department, with the full support of the Sandinist government which prepares and directs the station's programs with Radio Sandino's technical personnel.

2. The Tamarindo Farm, which was formerly owned by the dictator Somoza and which is now property of the state, located 45 km west of Managua, has been set up as a training camp for Salvadoran guerrillas, mainly, as well as other communist mercenaries, to organize penetration groups in support of the Salvadoran guerrillas. These elements are trained by Cuban, East German and North Korean instructors.

Part of the guerrillas trained at El Tamarindo included the 100 guerrillas that landed in El Salvador, as reported recently by the Salvadoran Government.

3. The Sandinist Front has turned Nicaragua into a distribution center for arms, ammunition, money and propaganda supplied by the USSR through Cuba, destined to the various communist subversive groups operating or are being trained to operate in Central America to assume power in the area and to impose Marxist-Leninist totalitarian regimes such as those of Cuba and Nicaragua.

Somewhere in Nicaragua. 20 January 1981. Press and Information Committee. Internal Front of the Democratic Armed Forces of Nicaragua.

["Radio Liberation" has been unheard by FBIS since 19 January.]

AGRICULTURE MINISTER CITES GOALS FOR 1981

PA230211 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1820 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] A dedicated working spirit and a conscientiously drafted plan so that goals, especially in agrarian reform, can be attained is being implemented by the Agriculture Ministry, said Joaquin Guevara, head of this organization.

He said that the plan guarantees that the goals established for this year will be attained, regardless of problems which might arise; and he added that he will dedicate all his efforts to ensuring efficiency in all the ministry's dependencies. The agrarian reform projects as well as other related programs will be implemented with honesty, dedication and a great working spirit.

He said that all ministry officials, from himself down to the humblest worker, are aware that their work will benefit the great masses. He added that all ministries or institutions face problems which must be properly solved and that his office will always be ready to deal with them and also with newsmen, who have the task of orienting public opinion.

He also said that all workers are attending their duties regularly and that activities are developing normally. He said we want our working programs to achieve positive goals within a framework of honesty and austerity. In this way we shall attain the objectives established by the revolutionary government for the good of the nation. The agrarian reform portions of these programs will benefit the peasants who work the land, which now belongs to them, Minister Joaquin Guevara Mora said.

PLANNING MINISTER OPTIMISTIC ON ECONOMY FOR 1981

PA230206 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1827 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] The emergency plan which was first implemented during mid-1980 has injected optimism and efficiency to bring about a halt to the economic downfall which threatens the country due to the current political situation and the decapitalization which has affected most of the productive sectors.

These were some of the encouraging statements about the country's existing economic situation which were made by Planning Minister Atilio Vieytez.

The emergency plan, the minister explained, contains a series of activities aimed at halting the depression affecting the economy because of the [words indistinct] causes. It was a matter of reactivating the national economy soon and striving for economic reactivation that would increase production, raise the employment level considerably and bring about other benefits.

The planning minister said: I am very pleased to inform you, in the name of the revolutionary government, that the measures taken at this time have been very successful. In order to corroborate this statement, he mentioned achievements by the agricultural, construction and building sectors.

He said that success is mainly due to the good will and efficiency of businessmen and workers, and this is why we have now reached the stage of complete recovery of our economy.

Vieytez said that we can be sure that if this attitude prevails, regardless of the fact that we are beginning the year with an economic depression, which is the result of the situation that has existed for the past few months, 1981 will undoubtedly be a year of positive achievements.

We can achieve our goals, he said, if we use our will and capability to make the best use of our scant resources and show the world what we can do.

GUATEMALA

U.S. DOCTOR CUMMINGS RELEASED, LEAVES FOR HOME

PA230101 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0048 GMT 23 Jan 81

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Long Cummings, a 50-year-old U.S. naturopath, was released 28 days after he was kidnapped, relatives of the doctor reported today.

A few hours after he was released, the doctor and his family left Guatemalan territory today en route to the United States.

Cummings was kidnapped on 25 December from his home located in Sacatepeque, 46 km west of the capital, apparently by leftwing guerrillas. The reasons for the kidnapping as well as details of negotiations for his release between his captors and relatives were not known.

HONDURAS

VISITING SALVADORAN MINISTER COMMENTS ON OFFENSIVE

PA230046 Tegucigalpa La Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jan 81

[Gustavo Ruiz Interview with Salvadoran Presidency Minister Pablo Mauricio Albergue at the Honduran international airport on 20 January--recorded]

[Text] [Albergue] First of all, I wish to extend greetings to the Honduran people from the Salvadoran people and its government.

[Question] Who will be the new Salvadoran ambassador to Honduras?

[Answer] I regret I cannot give you an answer confirming the name of the new ambassador, because that is not part of my duties.

[Question] What is the purpose of your visit?

[Answer] We have come as delegates of the Salvadoran Government to report to the people and Government of Honduras on the situation in El Salvador.

[Question] What is the political situation in your country?

[Answer] It is quite normal, despite incidents in recent days which have resulted from the so-called final offensive announced by the extreme leftist groups.

[Question] Has it been confirmed that foreign troops are arriving in your country?

[Answer] That has not been confirmed, but there are indications that foreign forces have participated in the events.

[Question] Do you believe that with the Reagan administration the socio situation in your country could change?

[Answer] I do not believe it will have any serious consequences, because the Salvadoran problem has nothing to do with the problems in that country.

[Question] Are the guerrillas under control at this moment in El Salvador?

[Answer] Of course. The offensive was quelled throughout the country and we can say the situation is under government control.

[Question] Is Jose Napoleon Duarte the alternative for your country?

[Answer] It must be taken into consideration that the present government is a provisional one. In fact, the true alternative must be a democratic one through normal popular elections, and in that respect, the government has already promised elections for 1982.

[Question] What are your government's expectations with the rise to power of President Reagan?

[Answer] We expect there will be a much clearer and better defined policy, which will permit improved relations between our countries.

[Question] Is there a division within the armed forces?

[Answer] No, there is no actual division. There were some officers, however, who rebelled during the recent incidents, but not many.

[Question] Is there any controversy between the Governments of Nicaragua and El Salvador?

[Answer] Well, the radio transmissions from Nicaragua clearly proved that government's support for the so-called final offensive. There was a propaganda offensive unleashed in that country which provided advance information on what was happening, thus creating a false impression of the facts. In this respect, it was necessary to counter this propaganda campaign and neutralize it. That was the reason for so much confusion as to the events in the country.

ARRIVAL OF U.S. MILITARY ADVISERS DENOUNCED

PA222007 Paris AFP in Spanish 0350 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 21 Jan (AFP)--The coordinating board of solidarity with the Salvadoran people denounced here tonight the arrival of "36 U.S. military advisers, specialized in communications, logistics and counterinsurgency" in Honduras.

The communique points out that "on 15 January, 20 military advisers arrived from the United States on a commercial flight" and joined the "16 who arrived at Toncontin Airport on 8 January.

The advisers were greeted at the Tegucigalpa Airport "by Alberto Solis, who is in charge of security at the U.S. Embassy," the report added.

The coordinating board said that, simultaneously with the arrival of the advisers, several ships socked at Puerto Cortes, 350 km north of Tegucigalpa on the Caribbean coast, "carrying arms that were later taken to the Lanesa Air Terminal in San Pedro Sula." The report adds that "from 14 January to this date U.S. Army Hercules aircraft have been carrying out night flights from Toncontin Airport to an unknown place.

The charges made by the coordinating board insinuate that there is a relationship between Honduran military maneuvers and the armed conflict in El Salvador.

NEWSPAPER: SUBVERSIVES ARE REFUSED NICARAGUAN AID

PA161851 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1145 GMT 14 Jan 81

[Text] The newspaper LA PRENSA of San Pedro Sula has reported that Hondurans have been requesting military training and weapons from Nicaragua. Here is a detailed report by Salvador Canales for this station:

[Begin recording] In order to destabilize the Honduran Government, patriots [as heard] are seeking aid in Nicaragua, according to the official Nicaraguan radio station. Eden Pastora refused to comply and informed the authorities of our country regarding the plans of those who went to request aid.

Several Hondurans who claim to represent progressive groups have requested weapons, money, training and facilities from the Nicaraguan Government in order to destabilize the Honduran Government. The controversial news was broadcast live over La Voz de Nicaragua by Eden Pastora, widely known as Commander Cero, who is deputy minister of the interior under the Nicaraguan Junta of National Reconstruction, during recent broadcasts monitored in Tegucigalpa.

The former Nicaraguan fighter said leaders of some organizations, whose names he did not give, came from Honduras in search of generalized aid to initiate a revolution in Honduras.

The local patriots went to the offices of the Interior Ministry and asked for an audience with leaders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, to whom they outlined their plans.

According to Commander Eden Pastora, the Hondurans were asking for support in the form of money, weapons, training and the use of territory to train guerrilla units whose sole, exclusive purpose would be to destabilize the present government which, in their words, is no more than the result of a merger between the army, the traditional parties and private enterprise that exploit the Honduran people through the worst possible injustices.

Commander Cero explained in his report that the Nicaraguan Government firmly rejected the Hondurans' request, feeling that aid of this type would hinder Nicaragua's hopes of maintaining the best possible relations to face common, joint problems. Therefore, the Hondurans did not receive the support that they sought in Nicaragua.

The report indicates that, to make things worse for the Honduran patriots, Commander Cero said he had informed Honduran authorities about this request to allow them to take the necessary measures in this regard. The information provided by Pastora included the names of the Honduran leaders as well as the organizations to which they belong. The praise-worthy intention of this was to allow the Honduran Government and people to know their true enemies. It was left up to the Honduran Government to decide whether or not to publish the names.

It should be highlighted in this report that Commander Cero was brave enough to denounce those anti-Hondurans, and above all to denounce publicly, in a noble gesture, the purposes they were pursuing in the Republic of Nicaragua. [end recording]

OFFICER EXPLAINS ACTION OVER RECRUITING YOUTHS

PA161903 Tegucigalpa La Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1145 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Excerpts] The newspaper LA TRIBUNA today published a public apology by the commander of the 1st Artillery Battalion, Col Rigoberto Regalado Lara, for the methods the army is forced to use in recruiting youths for compulsory military service.

Colonel Regalado Lara explained that according to the law, each 6 months all youths are notified through the media that upon reaching their 18th birthday they must register for compulsory military service. However, he added, most of these fail to report to the registration points, which leaves the army no alternative but to detain them on the streets and at various entertainment spots.

According to the military leader, the registration point is at the national stadium. He added that often the operation involves a large number of youths, because they must be evaluated as to their physical condition, their intelligence levels, economic condition and so forth; and that once this has been done, the youths are sent home.

We must do this in view of the fact that those who already have served the fatherland must be released, and the army units cannot remain incomplete.

NICARAGUA

DEPUTY MINISTER 'URGENTLY' LEAVES FOR U.S.

PA221921 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] Carlos Arguello, Nicaraguan deputy minister of justice, urgently departed for the United States to investigate what is happening to seven Nicaraguan pilots arrested in North America, it was reported today.

The Nicaraguan pilots, including Modesto Rojas, deputy commander of the Sandinist Air Force, had gone to the United States to purchase several helicopters.

It was revealed that the deputy justice minister has been instructed to hire a team of lawyers to defend this country's pilots.

News agency reports originating in the United States and released here state that the U.S. authorities have charged the Nicaraguan officers with attempting to smuggle the helicopters out. These reports also state that a Nicaraguan general is under arrest in the United States, but within our army's hierarchy, this rank does not exist.

PRIESTS TO DISCUSS GOVERNMENTAL ROLE WITH BISHOPS

PA180340 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] The three priests who are government ministers in the revolutionary government will hold a dialogue with members of the episcopal conference. The purpose of the dialogue will be to define the participation of the priests in the government, considering the many different opinions which have been expressed at this moment.

The three priest-ministers to participate in the dialogue are Ernesto Cardenal, Edgar Parrales and Miguel d'Escoto Brockman. Religious sources have noted that even if after the dialogue there is no consensus on this matter, the Vatican has the final world.

It is worthwhile to note that in various countries of the workd, there are priests who perform state functions.

MANAGUAN ARCHBISHOP VIEWS CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS

PA161632 Paris AFP in Spanish 0208 GMT 13 Jan 81

[Text] Caracas, 12 Jan (AFP)--The archbishop of Managua, Miguel Obando y Bravo, said here today that the Nicaraguan Catholic Church maintains normal relations with the Nicaraguan Government.

Monsignor Obando arrived in Caracas to meet with Venezuelan bishops. In a statement to the local press, he said that "the church is carrying out its task in Nicaragua without any government intervention, a situation contrary to that experienced during the previous regime, when our gospel was persecuted by official proclamation.

"We hope the present situation, in spite of the professed Marxist regime, will continue in the future so that the church can continue its work to evangelize Nicaragua," said Monsignor Obando.

The archbishop of Managua added that there is pluralism in his country and that religious education is completely normal, as is any type of expression of popular Christianity, which is "deeply rooted among our people."

"However, in keeping with its prophetic mission, the church constructively criticizes the government so that social sins can be eliminated from Nicaraguan society," he said.

Obando declined to comment on the Salvadoran situation "because we are waiting for the opinion of our episcopal brothers in that nation which is so dearly loved by us," he said.

The archbishop added that there are 5,000 political prisoners in his country "according to reports circulating in Managua, and the majority are former members of the national guard," he said.

FIGURES CITED FOR LITERACY CAMPAIGN ON COAST

PA180029 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Excerpt] Out of a total of 16,640 illiterate persons on the Atlantic coast, 11,782 are participating fully in the literacy campaign initiated in September. There are 2,453 literacy teachers who are tirelessly working to eliminate ignorance from the waking giant. Their goal is to bring literacy up to at least 17,000 people on the coast by 28 February, the day when the cultural battle will conclude.

On 13, 14 and 15 January, in Puerto Cabezas, the first congress for the evaluation of the languages literacy campaign took place. The congress was called: Heroes and Martyrs of the Atlantic Coast. There were delegates from Waspan, Purerto Cabezas, Bluefields and Las Minas.

During the congress, the participants discussed the development of the literacy campaign from its initiation. They paid special attention to the various problems that have arisen in order to find the correct solution. The delegates to the congress agreed to double their efforts in the languages literacy campaign's final offensive--which was initiated as soon as the congress concluded. The idea is to surpass the established goals, if possible.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY MEETING TO BE HELD 26 JAN

PA161856 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] Julio Lopez and Raul Guerra, members of the International Relations Department of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], yesterday announced that the first international meeting of solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution will be held in Managua 26-31 January.

They said 150 official delegates of 34 countries will participate in the event. The delegations that will attend the meeting include those from the United States, Mexico, the FRG, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Spain, France, Great Britain, Italy, Norway, Cuba, the USSR, Vietnam, Bulgaria, Hungary, Grenada, Czechoslovakia and other countries where committees of solidarity with the Sandinist revolution have operated since before the 19 July 1979 triumph.

The FSLN International Relations Department has confirmed the attendance of Jorge Arturo Reyna, former rector of the University Of Honduras; Msgr Sergio Mendez, bishop of Cuernavaca, Mexico; Rogelio Sinan, Panamanian writer; Daniel Oduber, former president of Costa Rica, and other political figures from various countries.

The first international meeting of solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution will carry the name El Salvador Will Win and its slogan will be Solidarity With Peoples To Win, Reconstruct and Defend Their Victories.

RAUL CASTRO ON CREATION OF TERRITORIAL MILITIAS

FL220110 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2019 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Speech by Army Gen Raul Castro, minister of the revolutionary armed forces and second secretary of the Communist Party, at ceremony marking the founding of territorial militia units in Segundo Frente Municipality, Santiago de Cuba Province; held at the Frank Pais mausoleum--live]

[Text] Comrade militia members, dear comrades all: When we see how men and women, young and old, hardened by work and patriotic commitment, kneel on the heroic eastern soil and, facing an eternal flame in memory of entire generations of revolutionaries, swear to defend their fatherland, their revolution until death, we can visualize how our people will react if anyone tries to take away what they have won at the cost of so much sacrifice. In the past we fought for very beautiful ideas whose realization many thought lay in the distant future. These same mountains saw the courage and heroism of our people. First it was Hatuey's [Indian leader] rebellion, which made him a symbol, the the long resistance of the African slaves until they joined the Mambi Army in its exemplary deed. Later on it was the struggle for land which reached its highest expression in Realengo 18 and finally, the revolutionary war inspired by those examples.

Today the situation is essentially different. It is a matter of defending realities and values that we know and enjoy. That is why, should the imperialist attack Cuba, they will once again know who the workers fighting for their factories are, who the peasants defending their land are, who the whole nation protecting their neighborhoods and cities are, and who the parents fighting to safeguard their happiness and that of their children are.

The men and women of Segundo Frente, who have seen a hospital and an outpatient clinic, nine middle-level schools, a pioneers palace, this mausoleum that marks one of the places of our people's combative glory and many more social works built here which, along with freedom and the right to work, are the fruit of their effort and their most cherished treasure, will not allow anyone to snatch them away.

The territorial militia and all our people will fight in defense of these achievements and of the good future that we are building to prevent, at all costs, a return to the capitalist past which manifested itself here in all its cruelty. Suffice it to say that in 1957, a year prior to our coming here, in this valley of Mayari Arriba alone, 80 percent of the children under 1 year of age died from gastroenteritis in the course of only 12 months. This is the basis for the whole concept of the territorial militias and hence the extraordinary enthusiasm with which the people have supported this idea.

By means of this organization, we will be able to improve the country's defense system and we will be in a position to have many more men in arms than the U.S. Army can deploy against our country without significantly affecting production and local activities. These units will have the entire population behind them and the Revolutionary Armed Forces' regular troops which together with the reserves will carry out the principal missions and create adequate conditions for their deployment--in front of them.

The process of organizing the territorial militias has barely begun. Nevertheless, we can already assert that the fundamental strategic commands have been established and, gradually, all the municipalities will have their units. This task, including the training of cadres, should be concluded in all its aspects this year. Comrade Fidel yesterday afternoon clearly explained the principles on which this entire effort is based. First of all, it is an absolutely voluntary system. The reserve members who are not attached to units of the Revolutionary Armed Forces or civil defense, the young workers, peasants and, above all, the students who have not been called to active service may join the territorial militias.

Naturally, this process is rounded up with the application of selective principles aimed at mainly achieving units formed by personnel qualified to fulfill the tasks dealing with today's duties and, above all, training.

It is necessary to explain that if the situation so demands it, numerous persons who are not physically qualified for training will be able to participate and contribute their efforts in many other ways. Due to this, it is necessary that each citizen who is not accepted be told the reasons for it, and the committees and political and mass organizations should keep the necessary records of all these comrades who at any time could contribute valuable services. The nature of the militias themselves and the kind of missions assigned to them make it possible for practically all citizens to participate in their activities.

In the first place, the territorial militias will be a powerful reserve force capable of fulfilling many types of combat missions as well as others related to guarding and defending factories, bridges, railroad tracks, entrances to installations and participating in ground engineering activities and contributing to solution of numerous problems resulting from the fight against the enemy and liquidation of its consequences.

One of the most complex problems facing us was solved by popular initiative. The problem was to complete this project at the lowest cost possible and without harming production. At the initiative of the militia members themselves, first and later all the people, the probem of financing was solved. At the beginning, financing was directed at the purchase of weapons but today it has grown to the point that the institution is self-supporting.

With respect to training, the decision to use vacation time and part of the free time cannot be more revolutionary. Doubtlessly, this is one of the aspects which demonstrates the popular nature of the territorial militias and is also an element which indicates the profound attention given by our people to all problems. The masses understand that the new U.S. administration represents a real threat and prepare themselves to face up to it, not only in the field of defense, but also in what is fundamental for all of us, production and work organization. In reality, not only our country but the entire world today lives a complex and tense situation. The economic crisis, an epidemic affecting the capitalist world, has placed the economy of tens of countries on the brink of bankruptcy and virtually annuls the possibilities of development of the more backward nations.

Together with that, imperialism's threat to seize by force the control of raw materials and energy possessed by Third World countries and a lack of nourishment which sentences more than 300 million persons to death by hunger are factors which, together with numerous unsolved problems in the Middle East, Latin America, Africa and Asia, tend to create diverse focuses of tensions which at any time and place would generate world crises of unpredictable consequences.

The unchecked arms race being conducted by the imperialist superpowers is a threat for all mankind. Added to this world situation, which is very serious and whose responsibility totally falls on imperialism, we now have the new U.S. Government. Contrary to the hopes of all peoples, this government announces an ultrareactionary program and, far from seeking solutions, promises an aggravation of tensions based on a warmongering, hard-line, bellicose and interventionist policy, thinking that in such a way it can better protect its interests, both in its already demoralized neocolonial backyard of Latin America and in the rest of the world.

Our small country is a part of this mankind which is threatened by tensions and injustices. That is why, at the same time that we endeavor to fulfill the role we have to play in defense of peace and detente in the world, we do everything possible to strengthen our defenses in the certainty that it is a factor of dissuasion which will check the emboldened hawks who moved into the White House yesterday. We can expect an increase in hostility against our country from this administration. It is possible that the CIA will plot new and tenebrous plans aimed at getting back at us, which is why we must prepare ourselves for all types of contingencies.

Today we have the advantage of experience. We have been struggling for more than 20 years against the imperialist maneuvers and our people today have the same spirit of struggle that they had during the days of the explosion of the freighter La Coubre, Giron, the October crisis and the fight against the bandits. For more than two decades our workers have massively joined the national revolutionary militias. With their own resources they have purchased the uniforms and first weapons. For days and nights they remained on duty guarding the coastline, marched to the mountains and fought against the bandits. They remained in the frontline and decisively contributed to the defeat of the mercenary invasion, fighting shoulder to shoulder with the rebel army. Today as yesterday, our workers, students, our heroic women are members of the territorial militias, creating in this manner a new barrier of fire against which the enemy will crash.

It is impressing to note the enthusiasm with which the masses have accepted this idea. Since Fidel announced the formation of the territorial militias, this measure has had the full support of the people who have made it one of this year's fundamental tasks. The formation of these units was a task we had to undertake to round up our defensive system, which has now been accelerated to give a proper response to the threats launched by the new U.S. administration. In its reactionary vision of the world, this administration terms the Salvadoran junta a moderate government. El Salvador is a small and heroic country where the masses are waging a hard patriotic struggle and are facing the threat of intervention by imperialism.

The territorial militias constitute a superb complement of the armed forces. They will contribute replacement forces; will fight together with the regular troops; will have positions of importance in the struggle; will safeguard and defend the factories, towns, bridges, roads, railways; will chase and fight the enemy until it is immobilized, isolated, tired, destroyed and defeated. [applause] By adding up all the small victories, they will attain the grandiose final victory.

The territorial militias will have a structure which will facilitate the organizing work and operations of the command. At the municipal and provincial levels there will be regiments and battalions, and at the factories and suburbs there will be companies and independent companies. Each president of the people's government at the provincial and municipal level will have a FAR officer assigned to him who will help in all matters related to the territorial militias and defense in general.

The party and the commander in chief have assigned the FAR this task and we will not rest until we have fulfilled its most minute detail with the help of the local government organs, mass organizations and the party. Work is going on to train the command cadres. They are comrade officers of the reserve forces who are attending a special accelerated course of training. The same will be done with all militia members. In this manner we will be in better conditions to wage all types of actions and, if necessary, to conduct a general war, a real people's war, a war which historically no aggressor has ever won because there is no army capable of facing up to an entire people, a war in which the front is wherever the enemy is. That is the reality which the imperialists will have to accept if, in following their warmongering policy, they dare to risk an attack against Cuba. [applause]

In the effort to raise the level of defensive capability and the country's vigilance, the strengthening of the work of our mass organizations, especially the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution which with their watchword "maintain vigilance high" renew their effectiveness in times of danger, plays a most important role. In the same manner we will repulse the attacks from abroad, the masses will support the selfless efforts of our security organs and frontier guards as well as the revolutionary police to deal a derserving blow and resolutely crush the slightest sign of counterrevolutionary activity, against the agents that the enemy attempts to infiltrate or some weakling or antisocial element who still remains here. [applause]

The formation of the militia is also tied to a more integral concept of national defense which must be considered as the unity of defense and production factors together with a number of measures of all types aimed at preparing the country for any emergency. In this effort the people's government organs, the state institutions and agencies and the mass organizations under the party leadership have a role to play.

The progress we have made in the institutionalization of our society, the great maturity of the cadres of the party and state, the development achieved by our mass organizations and, above all, how much the revolutionary consciousness of our people has been intensified, are evidence of this militancy which is strengthening the defense capability of the country.

[illegible] [applause] We are [illegible] [applause] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible

It is possible that we may not have the need to use the force that our people have. That is how we want it. Let us hope that wisdom and good sense can prevail. Let us hope that the ideals of peace, understanding and coexistence prevail. However, we have the historic obligation and responsibility to be strong and to preserve our revolution and our gains at any cost. The stronger we are, the greater the guarantee will be for peace.

The principles of our ideology postulate peace and understanding among nations and peoples. However, if imperialism imposes war on us, we will also be capable of winning the peace for those who do not renounce their legitimate rights or give in to the barbarisms of our times. [applause]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible

Subsequently, the students demonstrated that the U.S. officials at the Tehran Embassy were conducting espionage activities and preparing, under CIA guidance, a coup d'etat like the famous one carried out in 1953 against Mossadegh, the man who expropriated the oil industry. The Iranian people demanded certain conditions for setting free the hostages, which were: a guarantee by the Yankee government not to interfere, politically or militarily, in Iran; release of Iranian assets frozen by the Washington administration in U.S. banks; return of the wealth stolen by the shah, his family and friends; and cancellation of all judicial claims against Tehran.

The hostage issue became a key point in the recently held presidential elections. A joke making the rounds has it that Ronald Reagan was elected president because of the hostages and Carter's failure to achieve their release, as well as an unpardonable action, worthy of a supreme court, when he attempted to rescue them by force, resulting in a resounding failure, costing the lives of eight U.S. soldiers.

[illegible]

FIDEL CASTRO VISITS SIERRA MAESTRA AREAS

FL271721 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has visited a highway under construction in the Sierra Maestra as well as peasant families in the area and the Bartolome Maso sugar mill.

The highway is 26 km long and links Bartolome Maso municipality with La Plata. Its pavement has been built as far as Alto del Naranjo, 2 km from what used to be the general headquarters of the rebel army. Fidel described the highway as an important project that will facilitate access to numerous places where the rebel army waged battles and, among other aspects, will help the development of tourism.

In the town of Santo Domingo, the commander in chief visited the families of peasants Armando Mitrea and Juan Ynes Garcia. He was interested in their living conditions, work activities and possibilities of medical care and schooling for their children. He also visited the Jose Marti and Natilo Nunez primary schools where he asked about promotion rates achieved and the ones expected for the present school term. Lastly, Fidel visited the Bartolome Maso sugar mill which is maintaining a 92 percent rate of its grinding potential despite interruptions suffered as a result of equipment breakdowns. The mill's workers have pledged to complete the sugar production plan.

[illegible]

FL230009 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] Ulises Lorenzo, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the sugar industry, has called on the workers of sugar cane agriculture to work hard and create the conditions necessary for attaining the profitability of the enterprises by improving economic efficiency. Lorenzo issued the appeal at a meeting of representatives of the Ciro Redondo Cane Enterprise in Ciego de Avila Province, during which topics dealing with sugar production and improvement of the workers' living conditions were discussed. The minister of sugar industry referred to the importance of reducing the costs of production and added that the assembly meetings be used to examine the progress of technical and economic plans and measures aimed at making enterprises profitable.

MALMIERCA, GRENADIAN ENVOY HAIL TRAVEL AGREEMENT

FL221440 St George's Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Between Grenada's ambassador to Cuba Brother Richard Jacobs, and Cuba's Foreign Affairs Minister Isidoro Malmierca.

In signing the agreement, Foreign Minister Malmierca expressed his deep satisfaction on behalf of the Government of Cuba and said the event provides the basis for the further strengthening of friendly relations between our two countries.

In replying, Ambassador Jacobs said the agreement reflected the fraternal feelings of confidence of both governments and described it as one which will serve to develop the relations between Grenada and Cuba.

The agreement now means that citizens of Grenada and Cuba can travel to either country using regular or diplomatic passports.

RAUL CASTRO CHAIRS FOUNDING OF COOPERATIVE

FL221126 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro presided over the ceremony marking the founding of an agricultural-livestock production cooperative in the area of Soledad de Mayari located in the Segundo Frente Municipality, Santiago de Cuba Province. The cooperative has been named Congress of Peasants in Arms.

Party Politburo member Juan Almeida, National Association of Small Farmers President Jose Ramirez and Federation of Cuban Women President Vilma Espin attended the ceremony. Ramirez and Espin are alternate members of the party Politburo.

The cooperative has 39 members who take care of an area of more than 10 caballerias devoted to coffee and pasture.

BRIEFS

GUYANESE PARTY DELEGATION--A delegation of Guyana's ruling People's National Congress [PNC] headed by Elvin McDavid, a member of the PNC's executive and senior political adviser to President Burnham, is in our country. [Text] [Santa Clara Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Jan 81 FL]

FRENCH COMMUNIST--Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the Politburo and member of the Secretariat of the Communist Party of Cuba, has met in Havana with (Jean Ortiz), who represents the French Communist Party in Cuba and is a correspondent for L'HUMANITE, and with (Sylvia Ortiz), another L'HUMANITE correspondent. They are both leaving our country at the conclusion of their assignments here. [Santa Clara Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Jan 81 FL]

BAHAMAS

PINDLING ADDRESSES NATION ON TEACHERS' STRIKE

FL221906 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] The prime minister of the Bahamas, the Right Honorable Lynden O. Pindling, in a radio and television address to the nation last night told the Bahamian people that he has decided that in the interest of the nation the children must get back to school. The prime minister also took the opportunity to remind parents of their moral responsibility to their children and of their responsiblity under the law to have their children in school. The prime minister then invited all parents to carry or send their children of school age back to school immediately. The prime minister went on to say:

[Begin recording] I want to invite all parents to carry or send their children of school age back to school immediately. I also invite the sincere teachers who have the welfare of the students at heart to return to school immediately and teach. There is really no sensible reason why they should not do so. The education of Bahamian children cannot and must not be held hostage. [word indistinct] Yes, perhaps, if you want and if you can. But our children's education, never. Let me remind all parents, teachers and students, the school buildings are the property of the Government of the Bahamas. Therefore, I direct all principals and the teachers who may have locked up their schools and the classrooms and locked the gates of schoolyards, to open them forthwith. If you happen to be not near your school, you should surrender the keys to the Ministry of Education, to the nearest district commissioner or to the nearest police station. The keys are also the property of the Bahamas Government.

All teachers who do not wish to accept my invitation to return to their classrooms and teach but prefer to continue their industrial action are, of course, free to do so. This is a free country and freedom is a wonderful thing but no one is free to abuse other people's rights [words indistinct]. If, therefore, you do not wish to attend school and teach classes, you should vacate the school building and the schoolyard immediately. Meeting and assemblies can no longer be held on school premises without the permission of the proper authorities because meetings held during school hours on school premises will obviously disrupt the classes that should be and would be going on. [end recording]

In conclusion the prime minister said: [begin recording] It is my sincere hope that in our country's interest, parents, teachers and children alike will accept my invitation and cooperate to their maximum abilities. I shall assess the position again on Friday morning and decide then on that further step if any might need to be taken in the light of the circumstances then existing. [end recording]

That was Prime Minister Pindling in an address to the nation last evening.

Strikebreaker Hiring Denied

FL211817 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Education and Culture has denied reports in two daily newspapers that the government intends to recruit Caribbean teachers to break the strike by the Bahamas Union of Teachers. A spokesman for the ministry said that he was satisfied that the report in the Monday's TRIBUNE and the Tuesday's GUARDIAN was deliberately calculated to be malicious and to sow the seeds of further conflict between the union and the ministry. A statement released by the ministry yesterday emphasized that the government does not intend to bring in teachers from the outside to break the strike.